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Bank takes action to halt interest rate slide

By John Whitmore
Financial Correspondent

The cost of bank borrowing was cut by a further half percentage point yesterday; but the Bank of England took steps to ensure that the recent decline in the general level of interest rates is temporarily halted.

The Bank, which announced that its own minimum lending rate was being reduced from 12½ to 12 per cent, also said it was suspending, at least for the moment, the mechanism by which market forces determined the level of MLR.

In recent weeks these market forces have been driving down interest rates, and consequently MLR, far more quickly than the authorities wished.

In total, MLR has now come down by 3 per cent from last October's crisis level of 15 per cent. But during January the pace of the fall accelerated sharply. Last Friday the rate was cut by a full percentage point, much against the Bank's will.

The downward pressure on interest rates since the end of the year has come about largely as a result of the successful underselling of sterling in the foreign exchange markets.

This made British interest rates look far too high in comparison with those overseas, and as Wednesday's official reserves figures showed, attracted large inflows of foreign funds into the country.

The authorities, however, take the view that there are still sufficient potential problems ahead to make it desirable that interest rates fall only gradually. In particular, they are concerned about the continuing balance of payments deficit in the first half of the current year and the negotiations for the next round of pay

What they do not wish to see is a repeat of last year's pattern. Then interest rates fell sharply early in the year and subsequently had to be lifted steeply at the end of the summer as the Government ran into fresh sterling problems and the funding of the Government's deficit came to a halt.

What the Bank of England's decision means, in effect, is a return for the time being to the old Bank rate system by which the Bank specifies its minimum lending rate—the rediscount rate of the lender of last resort—rather than allow a rate to be forced upon it by market pressures.

Ahead of yesterday's announcement, the further fall in interest rates in the money markets had made it look inevitable that MLR would be forced down below 12 per cent this week, and it was this trend that forced the Bank to intervene.

Had MLR been forced down below the 12 per cent level, the clearing banks would almost certainly have cut their base lending rates by a full point. As it is, they have cut them from 13 to 12½ per cent.

This will mean overdraft rates of 13½ per cent for blue-chip industrial borrowers, and in some cases of 13½ to 17½ per cent for personal borrowers.

At the same time, the banks announced that they were cutting their deposit rates from 9½ to 9 per cent. This will be further good news for the building societies, who have already received one useful boost this week from the fall in the interest rates being offered to investors by local authorities.

But it still seems unlikely that there will be an early cut in mortgage rates. The building societies have not been attracting adequate funds from the public in recent months.

News of the Bank of England's more generous share prices sharply into reverse. The FT index, which had been up 9.8 during the morning finished a net 0.1 lower on the day at 406. Gilt, too, fell on the news, but still ended the day with modest gains.

MLR chart, page 24

Investigation of riot prison allegations

Humbershire police have begun to investigate allegations of assault made by more than 20 inmates of Hull prison after the riot there last summer. Further prisoners' accounts of the incident, which have been received by The Times, endorse the allegations of brutality by prison officers published yesterday.

Windscale strike

Fresh attempts will be made by management and unions to end the unofficial strike at the Windscale nuclear plant by 4,000 workers. The stoppage is said to be costing £14,000 a day alone in lost electricity revenue.

Page 5

Oman base denial

The Oman Government has denied persistent reports that the Americans will establish a military base on the island of Masirah after British and Iranian forces withdraw in the spring. Two hundred RAF men will leave in March.

Page 10

Marxist bias' claim

Professor Julius Gould, a professor of sociology at Nottingham University, has criticized an Open University reading course for being so full of Marxist bias that it performs a disservice to the university and to its students.

Page 5



Parade of promises: This Delhi poster shows some of the 20 points that make up Mrs Gandhi's programme for the people. Leading article, page 15. Report, page 10.

Mr Crosland bends under Commons pressure

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Yesterday's emergency debate on the 400 Rhodesian pupils removed from their mission school and taken into Botswana, appears to have had the effect of placing a stick of dynamite underneath Mr Crosland, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

Two parents had asked to go from Rhodesia to see their children, and the Batswana authorities said that if the parents persuaded them to go back to Rhodesia, no obstacle would be placed in their way.

The Foreign Secretary told the House that if the abduction theory was correct this was one of the most horrifying things to have been done to children throughout history. But, he pointed out, the alternative version from Batswana was that repeated interrogations at the school by Rhodesian soldiers had forced the children to form a committee. After further interrogations, they had decided to march across the border and, according to Batswana, the

children did not want to go back.

But the affair has done little to enhance Mr Crosland's reputation and Conservative MPs were quick to condemn him for his apparent lack of concern until spurred into action by Mr Ronald Bell, Tory MP for Beaconsfield, who asked for the

abolition of the Rhodesian emergency debate.

There are conflicting views in the Commons about Mr Bell and his motives, but there can be little doubt, if one is to take Mr Crosland at his word, that little would have been done but for this cry to arms.

In the words of Mr John Davies, from the Tory front bench, the Foreign Secretary's "serene, Olympian detachment" and his dismissal of this matter as just another border incident which has stirred up a hornets' nest of protest.

As often happens on these occasions, this was the sort of debate that gives politicians a bad name. Good and evil depended very much on which

side of the political fence the MP happened to be standing, and many of the arguments would have carried more weight if there had been condemnation of murders and atrocities on both sides of the Rhodesian border.

Internationally or unintentionally, the fate of the 400 children was too often forgotten in the anxiety of MPs to widen the issue into a more general debate on the southern African situation. But, in the end, the Tory attack homed in on Mr Crosland.

That consisted generally of going to the buttery for beer and bread and cheese ("for the great men did not sup with the rest, but had each his own allowance in his study or the fifth-form room"), cleaning candlesticks and putting in new candles, toasting cheese, bording beer and carrying messages about the house.

Besides that night work, each preceptor had three or four meals especially allotted to him, of whom he was supposed to be the guide, philosopher and friend.

In those stern old days of stiff upper lips and loose lower jaws, fags were also expected to lay fires, cook breakfast, black boots, clean knives and forks and get up early to raise fishing lines which their fag-masters had left buried overnight.

In recent years the duties have grown progressively less arduous, and fagging confined to general tidying up. The difficulty about ending fagging has always been that those who have served their turn as fags have been reluctant to give up their rôle as masters.

Rugby School's magazine, *Mater*, in its latest issue, says that fagging will have ended within a year. Paradoxically, however, the end of fagging in the public schools is not reducing the amount of housework extracted from the little victims. The shortage of domestic staff and the need to economize mean that all boys have to make beds, wash up, clean and do jobs undertaken by those eager little conformists Tom Brown and Scud East.

Defending the Foreign Secretary, Mr Rowlands, the Minister of State, said Sir Seretse Khama, President of Botswana, was one of Britain's oldest and most esteemed friends in Africa. He was sure he would do everything possible to satisfy world opinion that the welfare of the children had been properly safeguarded.

Colloquy suspected, page 8
Parliamentary report, page 4

Ethiopian head of state executed

Addis Ababa, Feb 3.—Rider-General Teferi Bame, the Ethiopian head of state, and six other members of the ruling military council were executed yesterday under the Companies Act. The bench rejected a defence application for £3,000 costs.

The announcement said the seven had been executed for being connected with the underground Marxist group, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party.

It was made after the radio had reported a coup attempt at the Grand Palace headquarters of the military council, known as the Dergue, here today. The council was said to have foiled the attempt by anti-Government and anti-revolutionary elements.

The men executed all understood to be members of a newly-created executive committee of the Dergue. They included Captain Alemanyehu Haile and Captain Mogen Wold-Michael, who informed sources said, had engineered changes in the Dergue which had led to the effective demotion of Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Although some shooting was reported to have come from the area near the former Parliament building and near the railway station, the main clash obviously occurred within the Dergue headquarters. — Reuter and Agence France-Presse.

Last week Mr Slater was freed

James Slater cleared of misusing £4m

after a 14-day hearing in which the Singapore Government sought his extradition.

He said last night: "There are two areas in which I have been publicly criticized and my critics have been proved wrong. The first hearing was obviously an ordeal. Today's did not have such an impact, although I was concerned."

He had denied 15 summonses arising from a Department of Trade inquiry into the financial affairs of the Slater, Walker Group and its banking subsidiary, saved from collapse by a £40m Bank of England guarantee.

The summonses, each carrying a maximum fine of £100, alleged that Mr Slater broke the Companies Act by financial aid to a related company.

Sir Hugh Wontner, the chairman, said: "We have reached the conclusion that the summonses should be dismissed."

Mr Slater told reporters that he still owned 51m. Asked how he could meet his lawyers' bills, he said: "I have got good friends who happen to believe in me."

Of his future, he said: "I think I can operate in business now with no harm to my reputation."

"I have made an arrangement with my creditors. They are prepared to wait for their money, and they have a reasonable expectation of getting it back."

Police inquiry
at council's
works depot

By Diana Geddes

Police officers and auditors are investigating allegations of "irregularities" by members of the staff employed at the Highgate works depot of the London borough of Haringey's direct-labour civil engineering department. Tens of thousands of pounds are said to be involved.

The council confirmed yesterday that its chief auditor is carrying out an investigation. Scotland Yard said it is investigating allegations made against certain employees at Haringey council.

Twelve men employed at the Highgate depot, which carries out sewerage and highways work, have made detailed statements to the police, about private building work being carried out in council time by council employees using council materials and equipment.

They have also alleged that members of staff have been booking workers in for overtime when no overtime work was done.

One of the workers at the depot maintains that he was dismissed after going to the police. He has since been reinstated, but has been suspended pending the outcome of the investigations. Another worker has asked to be suspended, and a third has asked to resign.

Fire-bomb damage in bookshop

Bomb damage discovered at a London bookshop yesterday was caused by two small incendiary devices, it was stated. The police suspect they were planted in the shop by terrorists last Friday.

The devices were found at Claude Gill's, James Street, Oxford Street, close to the area where 13 other bombs were placed in shops and employment agencies in the West End.

The police said they thought the incendiaries ignited last Saturday but remained undetonated until staff were moving boxes yesterday.

The devices caused little damage.

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Fire-bomb
damage
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Page 1

HOME NEWS

Police begin inquiry into alleged assault on inmates in the aftermath of Hull prison rioting

By Peter Godfrey

Humber side police have started to investigate allegations of assault made by more than 20 inmates of Hull prison in the aftermath of last summer's riot. Further prisoners' accounts of the incidents which have been received by *The Times* endorse the allegations of brutality by prison officers. *The Times* published yesterday.

The police inquiry, led by Det. Sup. Ronald Sagar, will look into events immediately after the riot, and submit its findings to the Director of Public Prosecutions. Humber side police declined to specify the nature of the allegations, beyond saying that they were "along the lines" of those published in *The Times*.

Reports written by 10 former Hull inmates, some of them on prison lavatory paper, and smuggled out of various prisons in the past few weeks, consistently allege vengeance and physical violence on the part of prison officers at Hull

after the riot. They describe attacks on prisoners, destruction of their personal possessions and wilful administration of food and drink given to them. One inmate writes of the morning after the riot ended: "I was made to run a gauntlet of prison officers and was assaulted by six or seven different officers. I was effectively prevented from taking breakfast; this was knocked from my hands."

Another says: "As each man was unlocked one at a time for breakfast, 40 to 50 screws [prison officers] were lining the landing kicking, spitting, rubbing jaws in a man's face." A third man alleges that he heard screams, blows and the gadding of prisoners by officers. "They said: 'Kiss my shoes', 'Call me sir', 'Don't mark his face'." I watched through my door and saw one man dragged out of his cell all kicked and beaten and jam spread all over his face."

Accounts tally of an identified man's surrender during the riot

Cut in loans balanced by building societies

By Margaret Stowe

Cuts in home-loan lending forced on local authorities since 1975 have almost been made up by increased building society activity in the sector of the housing market associated with local authority lending.

Using pre-1979 houses as the stick, the latest *Facts and Figures*, the bulletin of the Building Societies Association, shows that despite a cut of three quarters in that area by local authorities last year total lending on such houses was down by only 4 per cent.

Building societies were asked by the Government to help buyers who would usually apply for local authority finance, and during the year £130m was lent to people nominated by local authorities. There was also much more lending outside the formal scheme.

There has always been an overlap between building society and local authority lending, and their share of the total housing-finance market varies according to the availability of funds. In 1974 and 1975, when council coterries were awash with funds, local authority loans jumped to 13 and 11 per cent of the total (reaching a peak of 18 per cent in the first quarter of 1975).

In 1976, however, local authority lending shrank to 2 per cent of all home loans, while building society advances accounted for 95 per cent. The balance of 3 per cent was taken by insurance companies.

More 125 mph trains

Western Region is to increase by eight the number of 125 mph Inter-City trains on the London to Bristol and South Wales routes from Monday. That will make a total of 46.

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Quoting the Government against itself, he recalled the words of Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, who said that whatever proposals the Government brought forward must be compatible with improved industrial relations, the efficient management of companies and an increasing level of investment of risk capital.

"I am willing to accept those words as a basis for us all to work from," Mr Prior said. "I offer this as a basis for the only attempt by the Government to legislate on that basis."

He said that to implement the proposal for electing unionists to the boards of Britain's top 738 companies employing more than two thousand workers would severely disrupt not only the investment essential to the nation's economic recovery, but it would make company board rooms "the new frontier of the corporate state".

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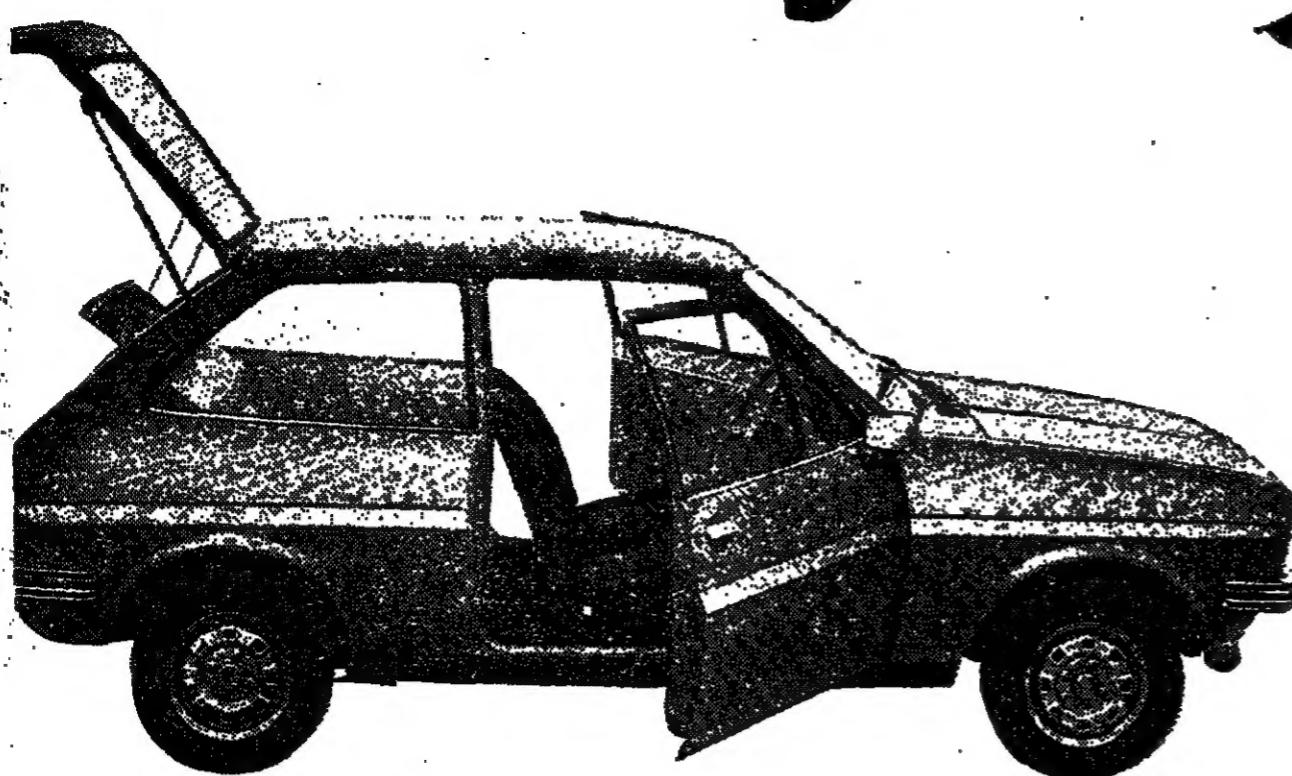
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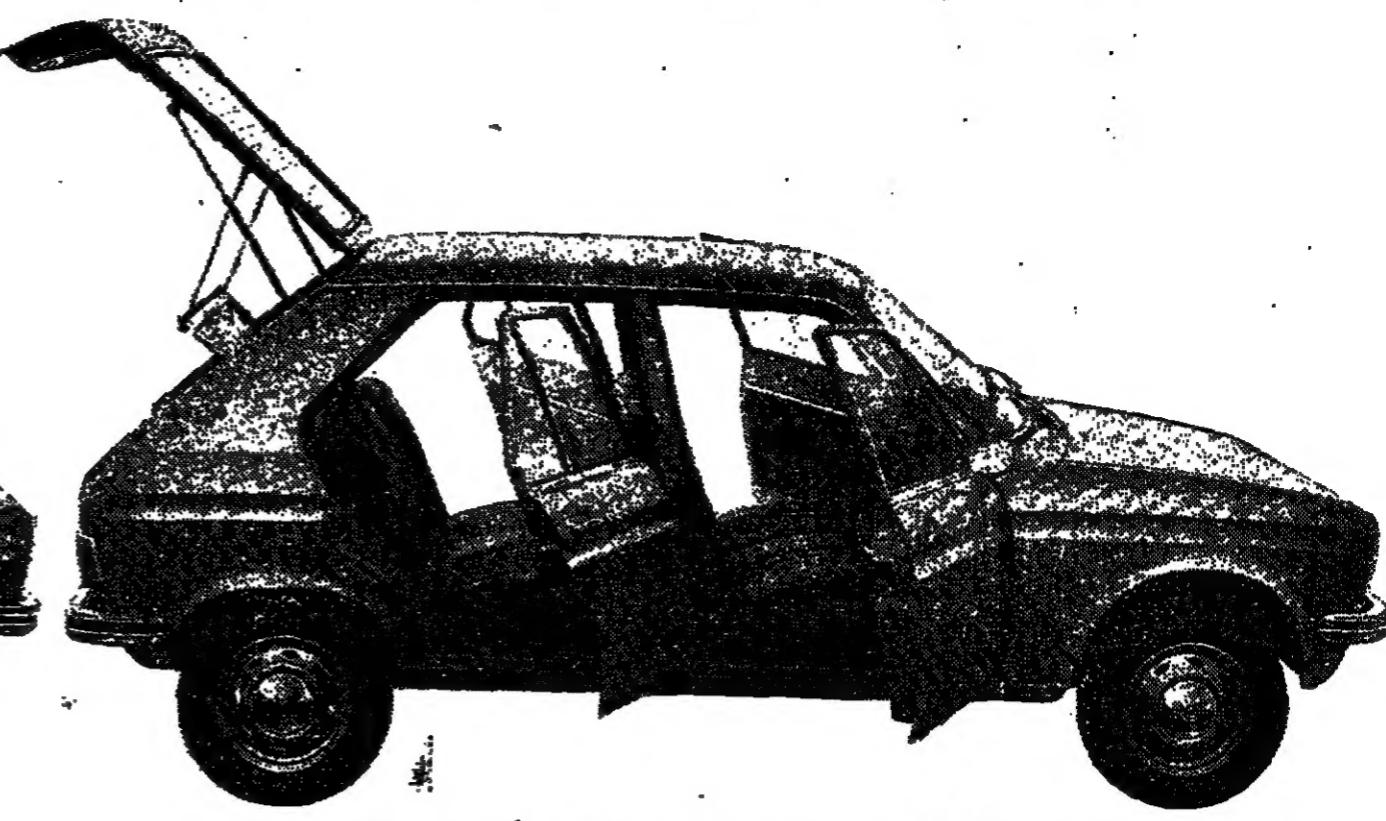
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Quoting the Government against itself, he recalled the words of Mr

Two great cars with you in mind



The 3-door Ford Fiesta L £2,079



The 5-door Peugeot 104 GL £2,059

this one sets you thinking, give this one a little more thought.

Yes, as from today there are two great hatchbacks, both designed with you and your requirements in mind. They are similar in many aspects, not surprising though as both were designed and built after exhaustive studies had been carried out to determine your motoring needs.

It is logical therefore, that both would be front wheel driven, almost identical in size, internally and externally, would have similar power output, engine performance and petrol economy, giving a high degree of passenger comfort, and offering the combination of a saloon passenger car and a family shopping car at home in town and equally happy on the motorway. Also that both manufacturers would offer various models and engine options to suit all customer needs.

Nevertheless, it was inevitable that there would be some differences and there are.

To start with, we at Peugeot decided to offer our customers *five wide opening doors with wide opening windows* on each passenger door.

Our research engineers, who have gained their experience in designing the power units for our executive range of saloons, recommended a *pressure cast, aluminium, overhead cam, five bearing engine* for the 104. Therefore, a brand new, vast factory was constructed to build this engine. The weight saved by using this light weight material was distributed elsewhere in the car.

As mentioned, passenger comfort was uppermost in our minds and so we selected an *all round independent suspension system* with a wheel base of 95 inches so that our passengers would sit between the wheels rather than over them.

To ensure fewer visits to the tyre stockists, we selected 13 inch wheels even though a smaller size would have been less expensive to manufacture. It is seldom that radial tyres (we and Ford fit them as standard) puncture. Nevertheless, it may happen so we conveniently located our *spare wheel in the engine compartment*, so that it may be reached *without removing luggage*, thus leaving the loading area completely free.

Furthermore, so that maximum loads could be carried, we designed our rear seat to convert flat to give a *continuous loading surface* right up to the front seats.

Coming back to similarities, both cars are covered by a simple, straight forward 12 month, unlimited mileage, guarantee.

The choice then is yours, from two great cars in the hatchback range, both priced almost identically and very competitively.

Why not take a test drive in the Peugeot 104 and see what our differences mean and at the same time, look at the sporty three door 104 ZS Coupe.



The Peugeot 104

	Fiesta L	104 GL
Overall Length	140.4"	141"
Seating Capacity	957 cc.	954 cc.
	45	44.5
Consumption: constant 56 mph town (government test procedures)	47.7 34.3	47 32.4
Speed	85 mph	84 mph

104 GL Saloon £2,059 104 SL Saloon £2,339 104 ZS Coupe £2,415
Recommended retail price including VAT, car tax and seat belts, excluding delivery charges and number plates. Prices correct at time of going to Press.



I'd like to know more about the 104 Hatchbacks. Please send me details.

Name _____

Address _____

Send to Customer Relations, Peugeot Automobiles (UK) Ltd., Peugeot House, Western Avenue, London W3 0RS.
Telephone: 01-993 2331

PARLIAMENT, February 3, 1977

Preventing 'trench warfare' on report

House of Commons
The Prime Minister said he was doing his best to prevent "a period of trench warfare" between the two sides of industry over the Bullock Commission recommendations on industrial democracy.

Reporting on yesterday's meeting of the National Economic Development Council, at which he took the chair, Mr Callaghan (Cardiff, South-East, Lab) said representatives from the trade unions, management and Government reviewed their commitment to the industrial strategy and reviewed the valuable reports of the sector working parties.

There was agreement on the next steps to be taken and on the need for action at company level, including the implications for investment, manpower, finance, product development and marketing. Discussion also covered other matters, including prospects for employment and economic growth.

The Government undertook to look into a number of points raised by the trade union representatives about manpower training.

Mr Ian Wrigglesworth (Teesside, North, Lab) — Although things are going well, he said, the interest rate coming down, the pound strong and the industrial strategy on course, would the Prime Minister agree that it would be wrong for people's expectations to be raised too high, too soon? (Conservative laughter.)

It is not clear there will be a need for a further period of restraint and that the decay of a decade in industry cannot be cleared up in months?

Mr Callaghan — That is a fair way of putting the proposition. It is on our side of the opposition in their national moment of support. They believe it is going to take a considerable time to repair the ravages of the last decade. Sterling is now more stable and looks like continuing to be so.

The most important problem is to examine ways of getting the restructuring of industry right and making certain the sector working parties reports are translated into action.

Mrs Barbara Castle (Blackburn, Lab) — There is a considerable amount of consensus in private industry over the industrial strategy. Can we tell the public why there are no planning agreements?

Mr Callaghan — To tell you the truth I cannot. It is beginning to get home to industry that they have made a political bogey of this when many of the things that are being discussed by the sector working parties — the implications for industry, finance and product development — are exactly the things the planning agreement will be about.

This is beginning to get home. I made the point strongly at Nedd yesterday.

Mr David Crouch (Canterbury, C) — Can he give encouragement to the nation that he is going to prevent the two sides of industry entering into a period of trench warfare over industrial democracy?

Mr Callaghan — I think the House knows my attitude on this. I am doing my best to prevent a period of trench warfare in this area. The regeneration of industry can only be achieved by cooperation. It is in the limited spheres where men are working together in their own interests that are beginning to see this happen.

I shall continue along these lines and will do my best to ensure that in those areas of common interest there is a consensus wherever I can promote it.

Magistrates not using all their powers to deal with vandals

The police were recruiting more and more each month but in containing growing violence against the person and vandalism it was not the question of more police. That was a deep-seated malaise and problem of modern life which would have to be dealt with locally and the position would not be helped by statements from him. Mr Merlyn Rees, Home Secretary, said.

He agreed that magistrates appeared not to be using the powers they had to deal with offenders and he would take up the matter with the Lord Chancellor.

Mr Robin Hodgson (Walsall, North, C) had asked what plans the Government had to produce an extra quarter of a billion pounds, there are more police, and forces are being allowed to recruit more.

No statement from the House of Commons will help at all. What does happen is that when we talk about it in the Commons, then in the days that follow vandalism goes up.

Mr Arthur Lewis (Newham, North, West, Lab) — While he may say what he wants, I can get a letter from constituents who proclaim and claim, and we know it is true, that they cannot and dare not walk out in certain streets, certainly in Newham, not only at night but in the daytime as well.

Will Mr Rees try to do something about it because it is getting to the stage that not only are the old people afraid but young women as well to travel some inner city streets?

Mr Rees — That is correct. There are certain areas with real problems. But is not what I was replying to. I was replying to the Lord Chancellor to bring the magistracy to ask them to take another look at the levels of fines they are imposing to deal with vandalism?

Mr Michael Alison, an Opposition spokesman on home affairs (Barking, East, Lab) — Is he aware that there are more than 100 crimes committed against the person every week in the West Midlands? The remarks of the Lord Chancellor in the House of Commons that area is 11 per cent under strength people in areas like Stochford are afraid to walk the streets?

Mr Rees — I think that sort of statement, because it is linked to a by-election, makes nonsense of his question. People are not afraid to walk the streets of Newham. The levels of police officers are increasing all the time and a quarter of a billion pounds more are being spent by this Government on law and order.

The police forces will know what to make of his remarks, which are made for political advantage. They are so far in my sight for law and order.

Mr Peter Bottomley (Greenwich, Woolwich, West, C) — Why are the police forces so undermanned

Immigration of fiancés: moves to stop abuses

Mr Merlyn Rees, Home Secretary (Leeds, South, Lab), is to come to the Commons shortly with proposals to stop abuses in the immigration of fiancés to Britain from overseas.

Mr Nicholas Budgen (Wolverhampton, South-West, C) asked if the Home Secretary had any plans to restrict the number of male fiancés from Commonwealth or former Commonwealth countries entering the United Kingdom.

Mr Rees — I am anxious to prevent abuse of the entitlement, not only by people from Commonwealth countries but by those from other parts of the world.

Mr Budgen — Statistics from the Home Office show that between the first quarter of 1973 and the first quarter of 1976 the number of immigrants from Commonwealth countries in this category increased by about 30 per cent.

I hope to come to the House with steps to deal with it shortly.

Noisy clash over entry of refugees from Chile

During noisy exchanges during a question on the admission of Chilean refugees, Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab) said that Labour MPs were concerned with democracy in every part of the world and they were sick and tired of being subject to barrages by people making animal noises.

Mrs Milla Miller (Redbridge, Ilford, North, Lab) had asked what was the present position of the admission of Chilean refugees to this country and what period did she expect an individual was allowed for entry.

Dr Shirley Sugden (Under-Secretary, Home Office (Belfast, North, C)) — Up to and including January 31, 1977, 1,873 persons are known to have arrived. The period which elapses between application and clearance for entry varies from case to case.

Mr Heffer — There is considerable concern about the time the Home Secretary has taken in each case and an allegation that the chief adjudicator dealing with this case has made a statement that he is not inclined to admit supporters of the former Allende regime.

The Home Secretary — The Home Secretary is aware of the concern about delays in entry. He has met interested bodies and is going to examine the procedures. The adjudicators are appointed by the Home Secretary. They are not answerable to me for the time in which they carry out their duties.

Under the Tribunals and Inquiries Act, 1971, adjudicators operate under the general provision of the Council on Tribunals. The remarks of Mr Heffer are not correct. No other Labour MPs will be noted.

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab) — There is moralization in the Chilean community in this country about the slowness of the visa compared with other countries and the chief adjudicator and in particular the Glasgow adjudicator have called members of the socialist party of Chile communists agitators. (Conservative interruptions.) I hope the Home Secretary will listen to me and the other members of the Conservative party for imposing substantial fines for vandalism, including fining parents and guardians?

The trouble is they are not ever, or severely enough, applied by magistrates. Will he ask the Lord Chancellor to bring the magistracy to ask them to take another look at the levels of fines they are imposing to deal with vandalism?

Mr Michael Alison, an Opposition spokesman on home affairs (Barking, East, Lab) — Is he aware that there are more than 100 crimes committed against the person every week in the West Midlands? The remarks of chief adjudicator dealing with this case have been prepared with his intention of trying to debate the referendum clauses next Thursday.

Mr Heffer — I am surprised at her taking that attitude. (Labour shouts of "We are not".) I hope she has been in the House during those debates she would have seen that

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Training and salaries for young lawyers criticized evidence to royal commission

criticism of the training of solicitors and contained in evidence to the Royal Legal Services Conference of Appointments Section. Conference suggests independent legal training should be set up to maintain standards of training and to increase salaries for solicitors and barristers.

Too often, the conference says, it hears of graduates whose principals have been either unwilling or unable to provide satisfactory training. But because of the difficulty of obtaining places as articled clerks, demand for which has exceeded supply for many years, graduates rarely feel able to complain.

The conference is concerned about the low salaries usually paid to graduate articled clerks. This demeans the profession in the sight of outsiders, it says. It means that it fails to recruit "some very able people" who are attracted by higher rewards elsewhere. It also lays the profession open to the charge of bias in favour of those whose private means or parental subsidies enable them to be independent of the Law Society.

The conference does not wish to accuse of cupidity or selfishness solicitors who act as principals. It is aware that solicitors have businesses to run, and that it is probably only towards the end of the two-year training period that the output of an articled clerk begins to exceed even the comparatively low salary he or she receives.

While it is desirable on social grounds for solicitors to be obliged to pay a graduate articled clerk a minimum salary of, say, £2,000 a year, there is a danger that that could result in a further reduction of the number of articled clerkships available.

Society has suggested five main areas in which it should be given.

But the extent to which suggestions are likely to appear on the

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HOME NEWS

Accusation of breaking free-trade rules with subsidy of £1m per week

Britain defies EEC in defence of pig market

By Hugh Clayton

Agricultural Correspondent
Britain has shown in paying a subsidy to its pig farmers that it is no more squeamish than some of the original Six members of the EEC about breaking Community rules. Today marks the deadline for the British Government to send a formal answer to the European Commission's charge of breaking free-trade rules.

In the eyes of Brussels the British Government, led by Mr Sillitoe, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, is twice guilty. First, it decided to pay the subsidy after little debate with Brussels. Second, it paid the subsidy after Brussels had questioned its legality.

The British defence of the payments, worth about £3.50 a pig and £1m a week altogether, has a tinfoil air about it. The subsidy might not have been necessary had a perversion of Community rules outside Britain not undermined the British pig trade.

There are about eight million pigs in the United Kingdom, with the greatest concentrations in Northern Ireland and the lowlands of England. But they

are insufficient to provide all pigmeat required. The greatest deficiencies are in processed pig, especially bacon, of which more than half of British supplies are imported.

The physical aspect of the market is straightforward, the economic one tortuous. The difference between farm prices in Britain and in other parts of the EEC is made up with payments from Community funds in order to preserve free trade. The way in which the payments are calculated for pigs means that the size of the subsidy paid to EEC suppliers

to Britain is extremely high. The British market has therefore been flooded with bacon, ham and other processed pieces of pig at prices lower than those at which British meat factories can afford to sell them. In the past year prices of pigs and of pig products have not kept up with inflation. Farmers have had no incentive to increase the breeding herd, and meat factories have faced a shortage of pigs.

The European Commission has recognized the anomalous basis of payments to balance prices in Britain and elsewhere.

INDEX OF ANNUAL FARM CHANGES

	1972	73	74	75	76
Total return on fat pigs	100	129	140	186	200
Price of all feeds used	100	143	200	201	243

INDEX OF SHOP PRICES, 1976

	Feb	April	June	Aug	Oct
Leg of pork (av)	100	99	100	101	105
Smoked back bacon (min)	100	94	91	100	103
Smoked back bacon (max)	100	100	100	100	103
Ham (av)	100	100	101	104	104

Sources: Dept of Employment average retail prices; Annual Review of Agriculture; Cambridge Univ pig management scheme, 1976.

New trial may close drug-law loophole

An apparent loophole in the law relating to cannabis, revealed by a Court of Appeal ruling last month, may be closed as a result of a new trial ordered by the court yesterday.

Kevin John Goodchild, aged 19, a local government clerk, cleared last month of being in possession of cannabis in the form of shredded leaves and stalks of the plant, must stand trial again, Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, said yesterday.

The charge, possession of cannabis derivatives, was originally made against Mr Goodchild, of Fareham, Hampshire, but the trial judge ordered it to remain on the file and not be proceeded with without leave of the Court of Appeal.

Mr Goodchild's conviction of possessing cannabis was quashed on January 13 because the Court of Appeal ruled that it had not been shown that cannabis stalk and leaves came from the "flowering or fruiting tops" of the plant, possession of which is an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971.

Lord Widgery, sitting with Mr Justice Talbot and Mr Justice Slynn, said the court was anxious that the "cold point of law" raised by the charge should be decided as soon as possible at Portsmouth Crown Court.

The court yesterday certified that its decision allowing Mr Goodchild's appeal raised a point of law of general public interest, but adjourned the DPP's application for leave to appeal to the House of Lords to await the outcome of the new trial.

Water rates will be increased in 'rich' regions

Water rates in some areas, for example, the Southern Water Authority and Thames regions, including London, are to be increased as part of the Government's plan to make rates fairer.

Explaining the likely effect of the changes yesterday, Mr Howell, Minister of State, Department of Environment, said ratespayers in other areas, such as Wales, East Anglia, the South-West and Northumberland, would benefit.

Mr Howell told MPs that the average domestic annual water-rate would increase in the North-West region from £1.70 to £1.740; in the Severn-Trent region from £1.730 to £1.75; Yorkshire, from £1.75 to £1.80;



A device to deter motorists from parking illegally is being considered by Camden council in London. A steel arm clamped over the bonnet of the offending vehicle ensures that the car cannot be moved unless it is driven over the six-inch teeth that "box in" the tyre. A steel plate blocks access to the wheel nuts, preventing removal.

Surgeons 'could not justify use of rare blood'

From Our Correspondent

Surgeons at an Oxford hospital feel they could not justify using supplies of an extremely rare blood group for an exploratory operation that might have saved the life of a man aged 70, an Oxford inquest was told yesterday. When the man died a post-mortem examination showed that an earlier operation to replace a hip joint had left a sharp piece of setting material jutting out of the joint, which had probably severed an artery.

A verdict of death by misadventure was recorded by Mr T. E. Gardner, the coroner, on Mr Herbert Ernest Smart, of Quarry Lane, Nuneaton.

Mr Martin Conibear, senior registrar at Nuffield Orthopaedic Hospital, Oxford, said they discovered that Mr Smart's blood was of a very rare type — O rhesus positive with a very negative anti-body. There were only four units in Britain, of about a pint each, and only six in Europe. They were kept for emergency treatment of pregnant women.

Mr Gardner said: "It would have meant getting it from Sweden.

Men questioned over Dupont chief's killing

From Christopher Walker

Belfast

Several men were being questioned last night in connection with inquiries into the murder of Mr Jeffrey Agate, a Londonderry industrialist, which has strained the Roman Catholic and Protestant communities throughout Northern Ireland and threatened foreign investment in Ulster.

Mr Agate, works director of the large American-owned Dupont fibre complex outside the city, was a symbolic figure in economic terms as well as being highly respected as an executive and community worker. His capital in Northern Ireland is estimated at about £100m, the Dupont plant representing the largest single injection since the war.

Foreign investment plays a key part in the Government's plan for rescuing Ulster's ailing economy. Before the shooting of Mr Agate on Wednesday the worst single atrocity officials from the Department of Commerce had had to cope with was the still unsolved kidnapping three years ago of Mr Thomas Niedermayer, then managing director of the Grundig plant in Belfast.

Determined efforts were being made yesterday to reassure potential investors, but Government officials acknowledge privately that the murder of Mr Agate could not have come at a worse moment.

Today a trade mission consisting of Ulster businessmen, sponsored by the Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce, is due to begin a 21-day trip to the Middle East trying to impress the Arabs of Northern Ireland's potential.

The importance attached to the mission is shown by the fact that Mr Conaghan, Minister with responsibility for the econ-

Tories plan Ulster talks

Mr Airey Neave, Conservative spokesman on Northern Ireland, is to visit Ulster for private talks with representatives of the Social and Democratic Labour Party, the United Ulster Unionist Movement, and the Alliance Party.

Mr Neave said: "These talks will cover matters on which the Conservative Party has not yet announced a firm policy. I hope they will be the first of several rounds of talks embracing all the main Northern Ireland parties.

Points to be discussed will

Families to be rehoused

Fourteen Glasgow families are to be rehoused after their homes were damaged yesterday by flooding, the second time in four months.

The National Union of Teachers has called off industrial action by members in 280 Lancashire schools after obtaining assurances on staffing and supply teachers.

Teachers end action

The National Union of Teachers has called off industrial action by members in 280 Lancashire schools after obtaining assurances on staffing and supply teachers.

Other home news, page 16



Union leaders, teachers, parents and children gathered in the Market Square at Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, yesterday to protest against cuts in the county's education spending.

Union leader rejects visit to S Africa

By Tim Jones

Labour Staff

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has been urged by Mr Tom Jackson, general secretary of the Union of Post Office Workers, and his deputy, Mr Norman Stagg, to reject an invitation to visit South Africa to meet trade unionists and political leaders.

Mr Chris van der Walt, director of information at the South African Embassy, said yesterday that the union had been invited to invite the two men to visit South Africa because "Mr Jackson deemed it necessary to publicly slander South Africa . . . with patent disregard of the facts".

The invitation was a serious and genuine gesture on behalf of the two schools to investigate the possibility of becoming completely independent. The committee sees the two schools as vital parts of its programme.

Historic house for sale

Higham Court, near Gloucester, is being sold because it is no longer needed by its owner, Mr Thomas Fenton, too much to maintain it. The 26-bedroom house was built in 1660.

Pose as policemen

Four men, who posed as policemen, tied up and robbed a family of £9,000 worth of goods in Main Road, West Kingsdown, Kent, yesterday.

Ballot by policemen

Police men in West Yorkshire are to be asked in ballot by their union, the Police Federation, if they want the right to strike.

According to the South African Embassy, Mr Stagg says in his reply to the invitation that the union's boycott of South African mail was planned as a protest against the banning of trade unionists by the Government in Pretoria.

Mr Stagg said: "We have known that the actions against the militants had nothing whatsoever to do with their trade union actions and affiliated organisations."

He said the proposed boycott was a propaganda stunt and superficial gesture.

Other home news, page 16

Joblessness dominates youth rally

By Penny Symon

tougher this year even than last."

About 300,000 youngsters who left school each year, he added, went into jobs where they had little or no further training. The numbers were higher than in many other Western countries, but at least those 300,000 obtained work.

The Government was doing what many of the delegates at the "Youth Charter towards 2,000" conference in London were among the unemployed 48,000 who left school last summer.

Mr John Cassels, director of the Manpower Services Commission, describing what he called "this blot on our country", said: "All the signs are that it is going to be quite a lot, but I cannot claim that it is anywhere near enough," he said.

His audience was not entirely convinced. "What is the point of a temporary job if you are just going back to the dole queue afterwards?" one asked him. Another said: "School is meaningless because you work at meal times, because it upsets the digestion."

But the stark fact was that many of the delegates at the "Youth Charter towards 2,000" conference in London were among the unemployed 48,000 who left school last summer.

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Mr John Cassels, director of the Manpower Services Commission,

Like the time rental sales agent Siven Doorghen of Glasgow drove a couple of hungry American tourists to a restaurant they had been unable to find.

Like the time Avis girl Marjorie Little received a phone call just as the office was closing. A man's car had broken down on the M4, so could he rent one? She drove a car out to meet him, and in half an hour he was on his way.

Like the time Gatwick Avis girl Vanessa Purvis offered to look after the luggage of some very overloaded customers for a day as all the available lockers were full.

Like the way we have 70 offices at major cities throughout the UK, including 20 airports.

Like our one way rental service.

Like the condition and newness of our cars; few are older than 9 months.

No one tries harder than Avis.



No one tries harder than Avis.



We rent Chrysler and other fine cars.

WEST EUROPE

Soviet willingness to negotiate on fishing heartens EEC

From David Cross

Brussels, Feb 3
The Soviet Union's new-found willingness to negotiate future fish catches in EEC waters was welcomed by the European Commission today as a first step towards a settlement of the overfishing dispute between Moscow and Brussels.

The Commission was responding to the disclosure that under increasing pressure from the EEC the Russians are no longer cold-shouldering Community attempts to reduce their fishing in the North Sea.

Earlier this week, the Russians told the Foreign Office that they were prepared to parley with the British Government in its capacity as acting chairman of the EEC's Council of Ministers.

The Russian move is seen as evidence that Moscow wants to avoid a "fish war" with the Community. It comes after last week's ultimatum from Brussels that the Soviet Union must comply with an EEC licensing system for their fishing within 10 days or face outright banishment from Community waters.

At a press conference today, a Commission spokesman made it clear that Mr Roy Jenkins, the president of the Commission, and his colleagues would not risk fouling the talks with the Russians by insisting on leading the negotiations as is their legal right under the Community's treaties.

One of the main problems surrounding earlier attempts to negotiate with the Russians about fishing rights, or indeed

any other topic, has been the Soviet Union's steadfast refusal to recognize the Community.

Negotiations with the Communists would, in the Soviet view, amount to *de facto* recognition.

To circumvent Soviet objections, the Community has been dealing with Moscow by way of London. Last week's EEC ultimatum was delivered to the Russians by the British Ambassador in Moscow.

But whether other EEC member states will continue to allow the British Government to act on the Community's behalf during its six-month chairmanship of the Council of Ministers remains unclear. In the past, the Benelux countries, in particular, have been reluctant to hand over the Commission's role as EEC negotiator to acting chairmen of the Council.

To underline the importance it attaches to the Community's developing fisheries policy, the Commission also announced today that it would be setting up a separate department to deal exclusively with the problem.

It will probably be headed by a new Irish Director-General, Mr Eamon Gallagher, at present a deputy Director-General in the External Relations Department.

The creation of the new department, together with the appointment of Dutchman, Mr Pieter Matilisen, as head of the Regional Policy Directorate-General, completes the first stage of a reorganization of the Commission by Mr Jenkins.

Election Bill called for by Liberal group

By Our Political Editor

Although the Liberal and Democratic Group in the European Parliament believes that the "first past the post" system of elections in Britain will seriously distort the balance of a directly elected Parliament next year, it concluded yesterday that it would be far better for Britain to legislate now for direct elections than to be the odd man out within the Nine.

For the first time the group held an international meeting in London this week, and in so doing, with the Socialist Group in the European Parliament, heralded the arrival of a new kind of international politics, with cross-frontier parties putting forward a single manifesto.

The Liberal and Democratic Group will finally approve its manifesto for direct elections in 1978 at the end of this year.

"We are forging a new multinational party," Mr Russell Johnston, Liberal MP for Inverness and a member of the European Parliament, said at the group's conference closed yesterday. "It is a new political exercise in Europe and a demanding one."

But he showed his anxiety

From Nicholas Ashford

Johannesburg, Jan 3
Almost a year after South African troops withdrew from Angola, the Defence Department today released an official account of its involvement in the Angolan civil war during the second half of 1975 and early 1976.

According to this account, there were never more than 2,000 South Africans assisting the two pro-Western forces, Unita (Union for the Total Independence of Angola) and FNLA (National Liberation Front). Despite the far larger size of the Cuban-backed MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola), Unita still retained a

version which portrayed the war as a Cuban victory over South Africa.

There can also be little doubt that South Africa is bitter at having to carry the full blame for what happened in Angola at the peak of the war. The Defence Department claims the South African forces were let down by the West—and by the United States in particular—for encouraging South Africa to become involved and then abandoning it in mid-battle. This sense of betrayal partly explains South Africa's present "go-it-alone" policy.

The Defence Department statement makes no reference to such political issues. It gives three main reasons for South Africa's initial involvement. These were to defend the Cunene River hydro-electric and irrigation scheme; to carry out "hot pursuit" operations against guerrillas from Swapo (South-West Africa People's Organization) based in southern Angola; and because Unita and the FNLA appealed for support against "Communist infiltration".

The statement removes any remaining doubts about the degree of complicity between the South Africans and Unita and FNLA, and in doing so has probably destroyed what

ever hopes Unita still retained of winning black African support for its continued guerrilla operations in Angola. It was a combined South African-Unita-FNLA operation from start to finish.

According to the Defence Department's account, the South African Army first became involved on September 24, 1975, when an officer was sent to Silva Porto (now Bié) in central Angola to help plan an operation to stop an advance by the MPLA on Nova Lisboa (now Huambo), the country's second largest city 90 miles to the west.

(In fact a detachment of South African troops had taken up defensive positions round the Cunene Dam project in southern Angola a month earlier, although this was not referred to in the official version.)

As the war became more conventional, more South African troops, vehicles and equipment were sent to Angola and two separate South Africa-Unita-FNLA forces were formed. The first, named "Foxbat", operated in central Angola around Nova Lisboa and the other, named "Zulu", started advancing northwards from southern Angola.

This was the famous "flying column" which advanced swiftly up the coast, covering nearly 2,000 miles in 30 days. It was held up briefly in the

written by Senor Garcia Marquez and distributed by the Cuban news agency Laciña, last month.

According to Senor Garcia Marquez, the war was at the time being lost towards the end of November. He gives the reason for the massive Cuban troops and aid to Angola to retrieve it.

The South African says the Cubans took over military operations from the MPLA after independence and more South African troops and weapons were superior to anything the South Africans had and as a result four 88mm guns were sent to the "Zulu" force.

The column then continued its advance along the coast to Novo Redondo, which was captured on November 13. Two days after Angola became independent from Portugal.

While the "Zulu" column was advancing along the coast the "Foxbat" force was seizing towns in the centre of the country. In one action a Cuban general was killed.

By the date of Angola's independence, according to the Defence Department's account, the South Africa/Unita/FNLA force, controlled a 500-mile line stretching from north of Lobito to Santa Comba and then eastwards to Luso. There were then only about 300 South African troops inside Angola as well as a limited number of armoured cars, mortars and anti-tank weapons.

It was at this stage that Cuban troops and Soviet-made weapons started pouring in to help the MPLA. Significantly the South African account of its successes up to this point appear to coincide with the Cuban-approved version.

Marxist programme for Mozambique

From Our Own Correspondent

Johannesburg, Feb 3

"Once again the people of Mozambique must accept a new battle", President Samora Machel declared during a seminar last November to pave the way for the third congress of Frelimo (the Mozambique Liberation Front), which began in Maputo today.

"The first stage, leading the people to independence, is over; but now, in the second stage, our task is the building of socialism", he said. "That is what the congress demands: the building of socialism in Mozambique."

The new congress—the third since Frelimo was formed in 1962 and the first since the country became independent from Portugal in June, 1975—will determine what sort of socialist path the country will follow. Judging from the slogans and propaganda which have been carried on the radio and in the newspapers, it will be a socialism that is based firmly on Marxist-Leninist principles.

The state-controlled radio has been running a series of special programmes extolling the virtues of Marxism and punctuated with slogans such as "Long live scientific socialism", and "Long live the

ideas of Marx and Lenin, the founts of Marxism".

The dictatorship of the proletariat has been presented as the highest form of socialism and listeners have been told that the "scientific idea of the proletariat" will capitalism.

The congress is attended by delegations from a host of communist countries, including Soviet Union, Cuba, Poland, Romania, North Korea, represented by the former Portuguese of Angola, Guinea-Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe, as well as delegations from the Communist parties in Portugal.

One significant aspect of the list that has been announced is the Chinese Communist Party. This is to emphasize China's declining influence in Africa and in South Africa.

The congress is expected to give a declaration of solidarity for the national movement still fighting to end their rule. Among those in the South-West African Organization (Swapo), African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa

Salisbury suspects collusion over pupils' removal

From Our Correspondent

Salisbury, Feb 3

Collusion between guerrilla fighters and someone inside the Menema mission school led to the departure of the 400 boys and girls to Botswana, a senior Rhodesian police officer believes.

Chief Superintendent Christopher Carver, officer commanding the Gwanda area, says there were people at the mission run by the Evangelical Lutherans from Sweden who were in sympathy with the guerrillas. However, he had no proof of his accusations.

He also admitted that some of the 230 boys and 170 girls may have gone of their own accord.

The Rhodesian Government claims that the pupils, aged up to 20 years, were taken at sunset by guerrilla's last Sunday. The Botswana Government says they left of their own accord. The International Red Cross is planning an on-the-spot investigation. About 30 of the children and some of the staff have returned to the mission.

Superintendent Carver said: "We warned these people that this sort of thing might happen and gave the headmaster instructions on what to do if guerrillas came to the school. But his telephone was out of order that night. We had no patrols in the area anticipating any abduction."

Asked about allegations that the Botswana Government had been paid, he said: "The pupils had been security forces in certain areas, he was not in the business."

Several of the pupils arrived at Sehili Botswana that they have their own. Some said they had joined the "freedom fighters". Mr Joshua Nkomo or satisfied with the conditions.

However, Rhodesian papers have carried photographs of some children and staff who had been captured. In the opinion of the government spokesman, it was now at Sehili that the pupils had been paid.

Meanwhile, the Rhodesian Government has appealed to the Botswana Government to stop the pupils being guerrilla training.

Van Der Byl, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, has asked Botswana to allow parents to see them. I am still surprised by the lack of parental guidance and he said.

Mr Ian Smith, the Minister, is to hold a press conference on Friday first since winning Rhodesian Front election to discuss the settlement.

Pardon proposed for Polish riot leaders

Warsaw, Feb 3—Mr Edward Gierk, the Polish Communist leader, in an attempt to conciliate public opinion and undermine opposition, said tonight he had recommended a pardon for workers who led last summer's food riots.

He was speaking at the Ursus tractor plant near Warsaw, where workers, angered at a 60 per cent food rise without consultation, ripped up railway lines on June 25.

Mr Gierk said he had proposed to the Council of State the setting up of a commission to study a pardon for workers who regretted their actions last summer.

Salyut 4 ends its mission over the Pacific

Moscow, Feb 3—The space station Salyut 4 was launched more than a year ago and housed a crew of three over the Pacific Ocean.

The empty research station, which was probably not operable, was destroyed when it was re-entered into the atmosphere, where it exploded.

This is standard procedure. Soviet space stations have outlived their usefulness.

Salyut 4 had the most successful career in the six-year-old space laboratory program.

Why do so many dream office blocks turn into nightmares?

Increased energy costs.

That's the reason so many environmental dreams have turned into hair-raising problems for their owners. That's the reason too why management of energy is more important today than it's ever been.

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Energy management principles have been proven

by the Electricity Supply Industry in its own buildings.

They've tested some interesting new techniques in building design and energy use, the most successful of which are already being applied in both public and private sector buildings.

There are facts, figures and case histories for the interested reader, plus a variety of booklets on integrated environmental design. All these are available from your Electricity Board.

So why not get in touch with them? Their feet are firmly on the ground.

PLAN ELECTRIC

The Electricity Council, England and Wales.



ng of the pipes for President Amin's rescued guests played by the two pipers who were lost in Sunday's air crash.

W York
s to keep
ment
deadline
er Strafford
ik, Feb 3

of weeks of discussion
W York failed to meet
deadline for producing
the repayment of
(\$588m) to note.
This means an aggra-
f the city's financial

raham Beams, the
aid that the Court of
was being asked to
the issue to a lower
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should be done to dis-
city's finances.

Arthur Richenthal,
holders' counsel, rejected
and accused the city
of "stonewalling".
ignal court ruling of
19 directed the city
the noteholders rather
take them wait-
ly, as it had been
to do. But it added
repayment should not
necessarily disruptive of
delicate financial and
balance".

fficulty has been over
the banks and the
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to help to bail the city
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ad dropped some of
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Argentine prisoners eatened with death'

Watts
ives of 40 political
being held in La Plata,
are in immediate
according to information
Amnesty International.
risoners are said to
Señor Ernesto Villalba,
rmer dean of the Uni-
Buenos Aires, Señor
iana, son of the educa-
under the Peron
and two journalists,
Jozami, who is
yer and was leader of
Anisio and Señor
Camarero, who
or *El Combatiente*.

iscers, who all have
with armed groups,
the Montoneros, were
would be shot if
were taken for the
two Montonero lead-
ers Dardo Cabo and
Ricardo Cabral.

drops plan
ycott
h trade

Feb 3.—Iran today
the threat of a boycott
goods and services
cause, it said, the
Government was
in a forthcoming
of Iranian dissidents.
Ministry statement
had revealed
Dutch Government had
do with the planned
in The Hague on Feb-
and 19.
eting is organized by
branch of Amnesty
and opposed by
an Government.

Montreal police end go-slow after four days

Montreal, Feb 3.—Montreal
police today ended a four-day
go-slow organized to put pressure
on pension negotiations.
A police spokesman said the
5,200-man force had resumed
normal patrols. The end of the
go-slow came as Quebec provin-
cial police stood by to take
over crime patrol and traffic
duties in Montreal.

The Montreal Public Security
Council had refused to negotiate
the main issue of pension
funds while the police go-slow
continued in Canada's biggest
city.—AP.

ermans want more cash

Feb 3.—East Germany
a direct approach to
ern allies, asking them
for the East German
to pull the military trains between
many and Berlin.
cuping powers, the
ain, France and the
States, have always
the Soviet Union as
opposite authority with
discuss such matters,
Germany.

According to the *Berliner
Morgenpost*, which disclosed the
move today, the allies will main-
tain their view that rail
access to Berlin is in question
for the four powers. There was no
official comment, however.
The present scale of charges
was worked out by the Russians
and the allies, but is paid by
the West German railway
system, which services the
allies' trains, according to the
newspaper.—AP.

Ugandan helicopter lost for 24 hours

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, Feb 3

An Ugandan military heli-
copter missing for more than
24 hours with four whites and
five Ugandans on board has
returned safely to Uganda, Kampala radio announced to-
night.

The helicopter crossed the
border to southern Sudan on
Wednesday with a party of
speculators who were to repeat
the *de Havilland Twin Otter* which
made a forced landing inside
Sudan last weekend while carrying 16 Britons and
six Ugandans, all of whom were
rescued.

The group also brought back
the *Otter*, which had suffered
only slight damage in its landing.

Carter envoy commences tour of Africa

Nairobi, Feb 3.—Mr Andrew
Young, President Carter's rep-
resentative at the United Nations,
arrived in Zanzibar today on
his first visit to Africa since
taking up his appointment.

On arrival, he said he wanted
to hear from African leaders
their own ideas on ways to
solve the problems of southern
Africa and what they expected
from the United States.

His next stop will be in
Tanzania, where he will meet
President Nyerere.

"Mistakes happen every

where, but they should be dis-
cussed in a legal way within the
legislative and other bodies",
he said.

He ridiculed claims by com-
munist and others of the left
that the riots were a popular
outburst. It was an outburst of
thugs, looting and destruction. I shall never forgive them for carrying out this criminal
and horrible plot."

He went on to claim that
hostile elements which insti-
gated the troubles, had exploited
the Progressive
Unionist leftist party by using
its stationery in ordering its
followers to stage demonstra-
tions in various towns.

Mr Sadat declared he was not
blaming or accusing the party.
"I pray to God it (the party)
will no be incriminated." In a
recent press interview Mr
Khaled Mohiedin, the party
leader, said about 100 members
had been arrested in connexion
with the riots.

The President, who dismissed
Mr Sayed Fahmi, the Interior
Minister, in a limited Cabinet
reshuffle two days ago, said he
was not intimidated by the
troubles. "I was not frightened
even for one minute."

Throughout his speech Mr
Sadat bitterly criticized the
Soviet Union, which he said was
opposed to his political and eco-
nomic liberalization measures.

He also said that since the
late 1960s and until he ousted a
number of top officials in
1971, including former Vice-
President Ali Sabri, the Soviet

influence had covered all the
country's political institutions
and the communists were in
every key post.

Libya said to be expelling Syrians

Damascus, Feb 3.—The
Libyan Ambassador in Damas-
cus has been ordered by his
Government to return home,
well-informed Arab sources
said today amid reports that
Libya has deported large num-
bers of Syrian workers and con-
fiscated their money.

The envoy, Mr Ahmed bin
Khayyal, was still at his post
here today, and there was no
confirmation of reports that air-
liners were already flying
expelled Syrians from Libya.

Political sources, reporting
that Syria had asked Libya to
clarify whether deportations
were taking place, said they
would be astonished by such a
move.

According to the Arab
sources, Mr bin Khayyal was
recalled after the arrest by
Syrian troops in Lebanon of
Lieutenant Ahmed al-Khatib,
leader of the breakaway
Lebanese Arab Army.

Lieutenant Khatib, who led
a mutiny by mostly Muslim
troops against the Lebanese
Army a year ago, was arrested
by Syrian peacekeeping forces
between Beirut and Sidon two
weeks ago and brought to
Damascus with two other
Lebanese Arab Army officers,
informed sources said.

It was not known whether
they were being held here, but
the Syrian action apparently
provoked Colonel Gaddafi, the
Libyan leader, who regarded the
young lieutenant as a rising
Muslim leftist.—Reuter.

£35,000 inventors' prizes

Geneva, Feb 3.—International
prizes for inventors of at least
\$60,000 (£35,000) each are to
be awarded by the Swedish
Inventors' Association for
innovations related to reaffore-
station and quick-growing trees.

The United Nations World
Intellectual Property Organiza-
tion was today told by Profes-
sor Carl-Göran Heden of
Stockholm, that the first
awards, in 1986, would be for

innovations in staple foods
and para-military groups.

Those found guilty of this
offensive would be punished by
hard labour for life.

Demons, strikes and
sabotage aimed at harming the
country's economy will be
banned, the offenders being
liable to hard labour and people
found guilty of damaging public
or private property will get life
sentences.

Mr Sadat acknowledged the
Government was mistaken in
increasing the price of staple
foods, but he declared this
should not have led to the riots
and damage of public and pri-
vate property.

"Mistakes happen every

This year, next year, and 100,000 miles on, Datsun reliability pays dividends.

It's not just the cost of buying a car that counts...
it's the bills you could face afterwards.

And that's where Datsun's proven reliability can
really pay YOU cash dividends!

Because Datsun build cars so carefully, and test them
so thoroughly—16% of the workforce are
employed solely to double check on quality of
assembly—that you can expect reliability and
not worrying garage repair bills.

* * * Motor Magazine in a survey of the 20 top
selling cars found Datsuns the most reliable of
them all! The Sunny had the least number of
days off the road—0.2 days per 10,000 miles!
No wonder it's been the best selling imported
car for the past two years.

* * * A nationwide Consumer Survey showed "far
fewer" Datsuns spent time off the road than
other cars.

* * * And the AA's "Drive Magazine" in a survey of
24 popular cars reported that the Datsun
Cherry and Sunny were *cheapest* on servicing
and repairs.

* * * Letters from Datsun owners say the same,
including fleet owners who are delighted with
the trouble-free, low cost motoring they achieve
with Datsun.

These are typical of the comments we receive:

PRIVATE OWNERS

* Mrs. Joy Gordon, Ransgate, Kent: "My Datsun Sunny Coupé
has now done 181,000 miles. I travel 200 miles daily and have had
no mechanical failures other than a replacement alternator.
Reliability is the key factor and in the Datsun I have found it."

* Mr. D. E. Epps, Near Tonbridge, Kent: "I own a 1972 Datsun
Bluebird 160B which I have now driven for over 98,000 miles.
When I bought this car, I gambled that it might turn out to be
reliable and economical. On both counts it has exceeded all
expectations... I cannot praise this car enough."

DRIVING SCHOOLS

* Mr. W. Luck, Luck School of Motoring, St. Ives, Cambridgeshire:
"My 1973 Datsun Sunny has covered 218,275 miles and is still
running well on the same engine. It has not had an easy life,
being a driving instructor's car for four years. Thank you for a
car which has given such a wonderful service, a car which cannot
be beaten."

* Mr. G. Davies, Snowden School of Motoring, Caernarfon:
"My Sunny 4-door saloon has done 158,000 miles and has never
let me down. The first replacement was a new clutch plate at
147,000 miles. I go out in the morning and I know I am going to
do a full day's work."

FLEET USERS

* Mr. Bob Davis, Air Call Communications Ltd., Dunstable,
Bed: "We have over 80 Datsuns in the U.K. equipped with radio
telephones in use 24 hours a day doing very high mileage sometimes
on emergency medical calls. We have tried other cars and come
back to Datsun because we must have the reliability and low
running costs."

* The Gilpin Group, Leeds (Hoteliers and Caterers): "We have
been using Datsuns for four years and have a fleet of 15,
mainly estate cars, and they are thoroughly reliable and trouble-
free. Our cars do a high mileage and we are well satisfied
with Datsun."

Datsun: the investment that pays dividends.



Datsun U.K. Limited, Datsun House, New Road, Worthing, Sussex. Tel: Worthing 68561.

OVERSEAS

Only 'occasional landing rights' for US at Masira

Americans not taking over Oman base from RAF, Sultan insists

By David Holden
Persistent reports that the Americans will establish a military base in Oman after British and Iranian forces withdraw in the spring are being vigorously denied by the Sultan's Government.

Quoting "a Western diplomatic source" in Beirut, *The Guardian*, in a report this week, said Sultan Qaboos bin Said "has agreed to grant base facilities to the United States Navy and Air Force on the island of Masira" in the Indian Ocean, off Oman's southern coast.

This report was untrue, Mr Qais Zawawi, the Sultan's Foreign Minister, told me yesterday in a message from Muscat. The Oman Government had no intention of changing its mind on the issue.

After the departure of the remaining 200 RAF men on Masira at the end of March, Mr Zawawi said the island would be used "solely as a training establishment for the Sultan's Air Force".

This confirms what Sultan Qaboos told me himself in an interview at his winter palace in Salalah, his southern capital, two weeks ago. Referring to Moscow radio allegations of a secret deal with Washington over Masira, he said: "There is no truth in that at all. We never negotiated any agreement with the Americans for having a base on Masira."

"I have always said we are well disposed towards our friends and if a friend asks us for an aircraft to land in normal circumstances, we would have no objection. But a base —out of the question!"

That obviously leaves open the question of how extensive such facilities might be, but the Sultan insists that they would be only occasional and that there will be no American personnel based on Masira.



Sultan Qaboos: Second thoughts after offer to Dr Kissinger

Omani sources suggest that Moscow and other hostile parties—including the neighbouring Marxist government of South Yemen—are spreading the story in order to embarrass Sultan Qaboos and the Americans in Arab eyes.

The truth is, they say, that there was no more than a polite exchange of inquiries and compliments on the matter when the Sultan visited Washington in 1975. Dr Kissinger, then Secretary of State, is said to have asked then what would happen when the British left and the Sultan characteristically said the Americans would be welcome.

But after second thoughts it was agreed that America would neither ask for nor receive more than the usual courtesies of occasional landing rights.

Two other factors have probably helped to promote the reports. First, the Americans are due to leave their present small

naval shore facility in Bahrain within the next two years and will then have no permanent base nearer to the Gulf than Diego Garcia, the remote Indian Ocean atoll now being developed by the American forces.

Second, Pan American will succeed the RAF as air traffic controllers at Salalah airport at the same time as the RAF departs from Masira. This is described, however, as a normal commercial arrangement in preparation for the expected use of Salalah by international airlines.

The British presence on Masira has existed for many years. As an air staging post on the old route to Aden in one direction and Singapore in the other, it served 20 years ago as a link in the East of Suez strategy. An exchange of letters with the former Sultan in 1958 also confirmed Britain's right to use it in exchange for helping to arm and train the Sultan's own forces against the threat of internal rebellion.

But the scaling down of British power and the retreat to European horizons, along with the victory in the Dhofar war a year ago, have removed both justifications for the British presence.

About 500 British seconded and contract officers will still remain in Oman after April, including Major General Kenneth Perkins, the present over-all military commander.

But Omanis are taking over senior posts. In 1970 when Sultan Qaboos deposed his father in a palace coup, there were only 15 Omani officers.

Now there are nearly 350 and an Omani commander-in-chief is expected to be named within five years.

The withdrawal of the 3,000 Iranian troops who helped to win the Dhofar war after their arrival in 1973 was also announced last week.

Havana, Feb 3.—Three communist leaders have been released from prison in Paraguay after 19 years in jail, the Cuban news agency *Prensa Latina* reported today.

The report, quoting the Buenos Aires-based news agency *Agencia Noticias Paraguay*, said Antonio Maidana, Julio Rojas and Alfredo Acosta, all members of the central committee of the banned Paraguayan Communist Party, were released last Thursday.

Señor Maidana, President of the Paraguayan party, was detained in 1958. According to *Prensa Latina*, Señor Rojas and Señor Acosta were tried and acquitted in the same year, but remained in jail.—Reuters

Havana, Feb 3.—The Government today revoked the operating licence of Thailand's privately-owned international airline, Air Siam.

The airline temporarily suspended its flights early last month with company officials disclosing a 350m bath (about £10m) debt.

The Government said the suspension of flights "without prior approval from the Communications Ministry" was among the reasons for revoking Air Siam's licence. It said the airline owed income tax and had no firm operating policy on many commercial routes where flying rights had been awarded.

The airline had also damaged the business of Thailand's national flag carrier, Thai International, by offering cheaper tickets, the Government added. Air Siam has claimed it faced financial problems since the Government announced last year that there should be only one national flag carrier.

Both sides indicated that this would be a key issue in the latest round of the 15-nation East-West conference on force reductions, which has been deadlocked for three years over military disparities.

Mr Willem de Vos van Steenwijk of The Netherlands, told the conference that the 12 participating Western governments were ready for factual and business-like discussions to pinpoint discrepancies between Nato and Warsaw Pact statistics.

Speaking for Nato, he called for discussions to compare counting rules used by each side in preparing statistics.

The Western alliance says that the Warsaw Pact has a 150,000-man advantage in ground force deployments in Central Europe.

Mr Slawomir Dabrowski, of Poland, speaking for the Warsaw Pact, said that Nato was seeking unilateral advantages by asking the communist alliance to make the biggest cuts.

The Soviet block disputed the existence of disparities favouring the communist side, and believed that there was general agreement of this kind.—Reuters.

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ENTERTAINMENTS

Telephone use prefix 01 only outside London Metropolitan Area.

CA AND BALLET

EDEN 240 1066 (Garden
1 card bookings, 836 6603).
PIERRE, 10.30. "Der Freischütz."
10.30. "Le Bal des mousquetaires."
11.30. "Le Roi et la Reine." Mon.
12.30. "BALLET CHANGER."
Called. Replaced. By THE
"THE SILENT." Seats for
seats from 10 a.m. on day.

01-836 2161.
1. NATIONAL OPERA
Tue. 7.30. "Traviata."
Wed. 7.30. "Royal Hunt of the
Duke." Rossmore.

1. THEATRE, 19. "The Merchant of
Venice." Sat. February 26.

ONLY CARTE
7.30. "The Merchant of Venice."
10.30. "The Duke." Mon. 7.30.
12.30. "MOLANTE." Tues. 8.30.
10.30. "THE EXILES." Wed. 8.30.
12.30. "THE SILENT." Seats for
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2. FESTIVAL HALL
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1. NATIONAL OPERA
1. THEATRE, 19. "The Merchant of
Venice." Sat. February 26.

51. CONCERTS

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52. CONCERTS

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SPORT

Football

Cruyff and Neeskens in Wembley party

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

After several weeks' concern that he would not be able to obtain the release of foreign-based players, the Netherlands' temporary team manager, Jan Zwartkruis, yesterday confirmed that all of the famous names, Cruyff, Neeskens and Rap included, would be in the party of 16 from which he would choose his team to play England next Wednesday. He could now field eight of the side—including the substitute Van der Kerkhof—when the West Germans play the defeat of an important world football power of the moment.

The impressive cast list will doubtless increase the Wembley attendance to over 80,000 but it would be misleading to England if, at this important stage of their World Cup preparation, a victory over the Dutch was seen as the defeat of an important world football power of the moment.

To beat them would be splendid for morale, yet it should be recognized that the Dutch have deteriorated at major tournaments since the summer of 1974. Like England they are in danger of not qualifying for Argentina after drawing with Northern Ireland after drawing with and beating Iceland by only 1-0. Trouble over the release of players and the international uncertainty have taken a toll.

Since last summer the national team's management has been on a strange course. Mr Zwartkruis was appointed a temporary manager, then came a sudden resignation to George Knobel but he is also an officer in the Royal Dutch Air Force and before Christmas he had to resign his football interests through pressure of work. Later he was reappointed to take charge for the Dutch team this week's and a crucial World Cup qualifying tie against Belgium on March 26.

Extraordinary payments to the Dutch World Cup party two years ago, and the subsequent power play over the Dutch Football Federation and further complications of a kind especially relevant to England had arisen with the



Cruyff (left) and Neeskens for whom the Dutch are paying Barcelona £12,000.

departure of Cruyff and Neeskens to Barcelona.

The Dutch Federation's agreement to pay about £12,000 for their release in compensation to the Spanish club who have an exhibition game with St Germain in Paris next week, poses the question whether the English FA would have to do something similar.

After the Dutch clubs quickly asked if they were not entitled to some cash for the loan of their players.

This unsettling background has probably been one of the causes of the Dutch team's team's failure to expand the "total football" that showed so much potential. However, the team for next week's game will contain plenty of outstanding individuals.

Individual skill total football could not exist.

Most of the team who reached the semi-final round of the European championship still remain in the present party and the eight who played in the 1974 World Cup final are Stuurber, Krof, Rijnsbergen, Van der Kerkhof, Neeskens, Cruyff, Rensenbrink and Rap. Only two uncapped players will be with the group, Dubois and Hovenkamp.

Younger members of the national team: Ireland v Germany (at Rath Park, Dublin, 8.00)

ENGLAND UNION v Scotland: Bath (7.15).

SCOTCH LEAGUE: First division: Cambridge v Hartlepool, Second division: Whitehaven v York (7.00).

Today's fixtures

Fourth division
Southgate v Barnet (7.30);
Southgate v Bournemouth (7.30);
Swansea City v Stockport County (7.30);
Young England v Bristol Rovers (7.30);
Ireland v Germany (at Rath Park, Dublin, 8.00)

ENGLAND UNION v Scotland: Bath (7.15).

SCOTCH LEAGUE: First division: Cambridge v Hartlepool, Second division: Whitehaven v York (7.00).

The Football League has withdrawn an order to Notts County to make their team available to the FA Cup on Saturday, 18th February, in all divisions. The League originally insisted on this restriction when the match was set for January 15 because of worries over a possible repetition of crowd trouble.

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Bernard Levin

When is a student not a student? When the Home Office thinks he's an Unperson

Every time I think that some new revelation about the conduct of the Home Office marks the lowest possible point that noisome place can reach, some instinct warns me not to say so, because of the possibility that, despite the apparently conclusive evidence provided by the measuring apparatus there is still room for them to behave even worse. And so it has proved once more.

The British Council publishes a regular digest of statistics on the numbers of students from other countries who are at British universities, from which it is possible to see not only the enormous number and variety of countries whose students come here, but how many come from each. Not long ago, a senior official of one of the colleges of London University, whose duties oblige him to attend to such matters, noticed that in the latest edition of the booklet there was no mention of students from Taiwan, though his university (and doubtless many others) has a number of such students; indeed, for some time there have been nothing up to date of Taiwanese students (mostly very good ones, it seems) enrolled each year at his college.

He therefore wrote to the British Council to ask why the Taiwanese students, though they undoubtedly existed in numbers as great as ever, received no mention in an otherwise comprehensive publication. He received the following reply:

Since students are now coming again from the People's Republic of China under the auspices of the British Council—this is a very good thing; let the university work have no political barriers.

"In consequence we no longer officially receive any students from Taiwan"—but this is utterly shameful, and universities in the United Kingdom should not take it lying down. "Statistics relating to Taiwanese students have as a matter of policy been deleted from the booklet"—not because there are no such students, but because we shut our eyes and refuse to see them... When you come to think of it closely, we are trying to do in reverse what we condemn the South African government for doing. And it is more than a mere matter of pub-

lic relations: any visas for mainland China, therefore the statistics of those from Taiwan are omitted—but where is the causal connection? For note what has actually happened: it is not that students from Taiwan have been banned from Britain because students from China now come here (though no doubt the Foreign Office is working towards that happy end), but that, although they still come, it has been decided as a matter of policy to pretend that they don't. (Whose policy, incidentally? If the British Council's, to whom is it accountable for such decisions? If not, who has the power to impose policy on the Council, and how surreptitiously was it exercised on this occasion?)

Unsatisfied with this reply, the university official wrote a letter to an academic colleague, in which he set out the problem as he saw it. It can do no better than quote the relevant passage from his letter:

To my mind, the attitude revealed, presumably at the behest of the Government, is wholly wrong. Students are now coming again from the People's Republic of China under the auspices of the British Council—this is a very good thing; let the university work have no political barriers.

"In consequence we no longer officially receive any students from Taiwan"—but this is utterly shameful, and universities in the United Kingdom should not take it lying down. "Statistics relating to Taiwanese students have as a matter of policy been deleted from the booklet"—not because there are no such students, but because we shut our eyes and refuse to see them... When you come to think of it closely, we are trying to do in reverse what we condemn the South African government for doing. And it is more than a mere matter of pub-

lic relations: any visas for Taiwanese student entry have to be obtained through Hong Kong, and we are finding difficulties put in the way—one must not say so, it is all inadvertent, the papers just happen to be mislaid for some months, and a given student does not turn up... If we care about free access to our own universities, for students and scholars from all countries, without discrimination, Cain?

Now any proposal for raising Cain naturally turns the thoughts of those interested in the project towards me; the university official concerned, however, might not have got in touch with me had it not been for a particular application of the "policy" that I have so far expounded only in general. And that is where the Home Office comes in.

The control of entry into this country is one of the functions of the Home Office; that department is, quite properly, concerned to see that those coming here comply with all the appropriate regulations; these include a requirement that visitors such as students shall not be a charge on public funds, and that they shall be genuinely in a position, defined by the educational standards they have attained, to undertake the course of study for which they are to be admitted.

Vigilance on these matters is necessary and right, and on the face of it, therefore, there was nothing improper about the following letter, received from the Home Office by a professor in the college under discussion (I have deleted the name of the student concerned):

We have received a letter dated September 30, 1976, certifying that Mr XXX has been accepted for a course starting on Monday, October 4, 1976.

It would assist us if you would confirm that Mr XXX has given adequate financial guarantees for maintenance and tuition.

With regard to qualifications, as it is understood that Mr XXX was required to leave Soochow University in February 1976, because of poor academic performance, is it considered that he now has the qualifications to pursue the course for which he has enrolled?

To this my informant replied, giving the requisite financial assurances and adding on the other point:

We have in our possession a copy of a certificate from the Registrar of Soochow University, Taiwan, indicating that Mr XXX received the degree of BSC in June 1976. We have also an attested transcript of his academic record, of which the grades indicate an academic performance which we should regard as adequate for the pursuance of a postgraduate course... these grades, I may add, are pretty high. You say in your letter that "it is understood that Mr XXX was required to leave Soochow University in February 1976 because of poor academic performance"; we have seen no evidence at all which would bear this statement out. If you could give us any further information from some public or private source, we shall appreciate it.

The reply he got to this from the Home Office explains the opening words of this column. It reads, in full:

I regret the delay in replying to your letter of October 18, about Mr XXX. I am unable to provide any further information about Mr XXX but would suggest that you may wish to contact the Soochow University.

To this, the recipient replied in words on which, again, I am unable to improve:

We regard it as highly unsatisfactory, indeed reprehensible, that a government official should make statements which denigrate a student's academic performance, refuse to substantiate them when asked, and suggest that we should ourselves query the documentation we have received from Soochow University. We shall of course do nothing of the kind. We note further that the student is Taiwanese. It would appear (from this and other evidence during the past year) that consequently we cannot expect fair treatment from government departments.

It would indeed. And the matter could be put more forcefully still: it seems that the Home Office now feels free to use unsupported defamation against those officially categorized, for political reasons, as "unpersons", and when it is challenged to produce a basis for the unconfirmed allegations, busies the other side without even pretending to have any reason to believe them true.

Well, this at any rate has got to be stopped. For obvious reasons, I have not named the student, for reasons more obvious but to me sufficient, I have not named the college either. The signatures on the two letters from the Home Office are understandably, perhaps, illegible: I had better say plainly that I am perfectly prepared to have a shot at deciphering them for the benefit of my readers, in the event of an unsatisfactory response to the disclosure of this scandal. I am obliged to return to the subject. Meanwhile, should Mr Rees be sufficiently concerned at this evidence of further malpractice by his department to do something about it, the reference numbers on both Home Office letters is W 133895.

Still on the question of morality, an examination of self-interest

What price principles in foreign policy?



Mr Crosland: Benefits will outweigh the costs

Although we live in such materialist times, it is surprising how often moral questions come up in foreign policy. The Foreign Secretary quickly learns that without the economic resources to back him up, his diplomacy rests on very little but persuasion and the good offices of others—look at Rhodesia, look at oil, look at Rhodesia.

What is more, most countries in the modern world are likely to appear somewhat unattractive, from the point of view of civil and political rights (granted there are other criteria, which other cultures rate more highly than our own). According to the American publication, *Freedom at Issue*, which looks at human rights across the world, less than 20 per cent of the world's population now live in free societies. Three members of the European Community failed to qualify for its top table of "most free" measured by civil rights (France, Italy and Ireland), though all, bar one (Luxembourg) make the highest ranking on political rights. Only two countries outside Western Europe, the white Commonwealth and the United States rank in both the top lists: Barbados and Costa Rica.

All in all some 40 countries were classified as "free" last year, which leaves 50 countries "partly free" and nearly 70 "not free". It follows, however, one may disagree with the choices here and there, that a British government is going to be dealing and trading with some fairly unpleasant customers, whether it likes it or not.

If Britain's primary interest is to survive and to make a

living, foreign policy has to be directed towards achieving that end. It would be felt, all the same, to be utterly repugnant to press this aim in its limit in all cases. And the moral question can be put in the form of where do you draw the line? The French authorities, in the release of Mr Abu Daoud, followed the next day by the announcement of a huge arms deal with the Arabs, gave the impression (deny it as they will) that national self-interest was the only criterion. Britain likes it or not.

South Africa: but the line on defence contracts is clearly drawn.

The Labour Party, which feels moral issues very deeply (it used to be Spain that was abominable, but Spain is becoming respectable now), has largely relegated Chile to the lowest circle of hell. It is somewhat inconsistent about its judgments, holding its fire about other Latin American republics which scarcely believe any better on human rights let alone the Soviet Union. But consistency in

moral matters is not everything. Some Conservatives have been more vocal in support of the settler regime in Rhodesia than anyone else, but no one seriously doubts that the party favours a democratic solution in Southern Africa.

Certainly it is easier to strike moral attitudes at long distance (on Santiago rather than Clay Cross). If jobs were threatened in a direct way, would MPs in the constituency concerned be so heated on moral issues? Clearly not. But Britain is a moral country, and these matters do count. An interesting instance is coming up in the European Community where, as Mr Crosland pointed out in his first major speech on European policy—Britain should be prepared to accept certain competition, and presumably loss of trade and economic advantages, in encouraging the entry of countries like Greece, Spain and Portugal. The setting of the nationalized industries is vastly different from the private sector, and in many ways is more suited to the unions' power aspirations. To begin with, there are no shareholders to worry about.

By statute, the boards of state industries are obliged to recognize and consult with appropriate trade unions. Where there is no formal closed shop, as in electricity, gas, British Rail and the Post Office, there is a defunct closed shop, as in the pits.

Representation could scarcely be through any other instrument than the trade unions. In addition, the managers of state industries are more used to exercising their power within social and political constraints; they are not being asked, as are the managers of large private companies, to give up long cherished powers.

The TUC's investigation will discover a wide range of trade union participation in state industry already, with many more developments in the pipeline. In steel, for example, trade unionists already sit on divisional committees of management, and industry's largest, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, is pressing for greater representation on the main board, where a worker director and a retired official of the union already sit.

A managerial revolution is

pending at the Post Office,

where the unions are within

sight of the boardroom. A

Paul R.

Led

From February 7th all Passport fees increased.

The new fees for the main passport services will be as follows:

Old fee	New fee
£3.00	£10.00
£6.00	£20.00
£4.00	£5.00
£8.00	£10.00
£2.00	£2.50
£2.00	£2.50

Passport Application forms are available from: Passport Offices in London, Liverpool, Glasgow, Newport, Peterborough and from all Crown Post Offices.

Please allow four weeks from receipt of application to delivery of new passport.

The Times Diary

A good, juicy scandal needed

Italian delicatessen on the corner of his street—regarded as a great emporium by the anoraking middle class. Harrington talked about the silver jubilee.

Like the even less meaningful question of the Attorney General's relationship with the courts and Parliament, this is dubbed a "constitutional issue" and is therefore treated with great solemnity by commentators, in spite of its intrinsic unimportance. I met an Australian reporter the other night, and he was quite shocked that I failed to share his view that devolution threatened the very foundations of society as we know it.

Certainly politicians do not seem to be talking about it, or indeed about anything political, to judge from my experience on Wednesday night, when I went to a "drinks party" given by the Tory Reform Group. It was a morose, thirly-attended affair, held in the forbiddingly chaotic conference centre next to Westminster Cathedral.

A few senior Conservatives were there, all wearing dark grey suits with a thin white stripe. Some—I spotted Ian Gilmore—were not reformers at all and at least one guest, Hilary Harrington—was not even a Tory. But whoever they were, none appeared to be talking about politics.

A few of us chatted with Peter Walker about the decline of weekly magazines, while Sir Geoffrey Howe, who lives quite near me, engaged in a spirited discussion of the newly-opened

of 80 (24 inside the body of the beast), is rarely seen even in Hong Kong. The dragon was sent by the Hong Kong Government, and the dancers will be drawn from the Chinese restaurants of London.

Choy calculates that there could now be 30,000 Chinese in London. His private project for Jubilee year is to raise £500,000 to open a Chinese school in Soho, where the immigrants will be taught their own language and culture, and where English housewives will be able to learn Cantonese cooking. He

has already been hard at work persuading the Hotel and Catering Industry Training Board to give English lessons to Chinese waiters.

The Year of the Snake should, according to the Chinese, be a bad year, but not the Year of the Dragon which is coming to a close. "The Dragon is always a fiery year," Choy observed. "Look what happened to Mao Tse-tung and Chou En-lai."

Clergymen should record their own voices in church, according to the Bishop of Ely, the Rt Rev Edward Roberts, writing in his Diocesan Gazette. "Some of us persons ought to install a tape recorder at the back of the church and play it to ourselves to experience what our long-suffering congregations have to endure Sunday after Sunday—that is, if our wives and churchwardens won't tell us first."

Fiery

Besides being the year of the jubilee, this is also about to be the Year of the Snake. The Chinese community in London intend to celebrate both in a grander manner than usual, and yesterday they unveiled a 140ft silver dragon which will form the highlight of their new year celebrations in Trafalgar Square on February 20.

"Usually we have the lion dance, which is a lesser ceremony," explained Vincent Choy, the Soho restaurateur. "But for the jubilee, we are doing something special." The dragon dance, which requires a team

of 80 (24 inside the body of the beast), is rarely seen even in Hong Kong. The dragon was sent by the Hong Kong Government, and the dancers will be drawn from the Chinese restaurants of London.

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has already been hard at work persuading the Hotel and Catering Industry Training Board to give English lessons to Chinese waiters.

Granted, there were some suspect unprincipled decisions, especially when Tolchard was given out b-w at the non-striker's end.

But even granted all that, it was a sorry, shambling, shameful defeat, particularly coming as it did on the day that our

State firms

may open the door to let workers into the boardroom



Lord Bullock

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Republic of Korea

Mixture of confidence and unease

By Scott

Park Chung-hee, the sixteenth of the military which brought his regime to power, has a mixture of confidence and unease.

He cause for concern the outstanding economy. In national product per cent, the recorded output in year of 1973, which spearheads the greater prosperity, 0.1 per cent and they will reach \$82m worth in years ahead of

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the central issue

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Referring to

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he said that for him

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ignorance means

respect of another nation's

sovereignty.

The Government

maintains

that human rights have been

respected in South Korea

re is no danger

to political rights are

limited. This view is sup-

ported by the New Demo-

ilitary support

Party, the only oppo-

position group in the National



Assembly, which, while criticising certain aspects of economic policy, accepts that the threat to national security from the North justifies exceptional measures.

However, it is contested by the extra-parliamentary opposition, consisting predominantly of a few former political leaders, Christian clergy and lay people, and students. The press and broadcasting stations have without exception agreed to operate within the political framework set by President Park and offer no fundamental criticism of his regime.

According to the Human Rights Committee of the National Council of Churches in Korea, which groups six Protestant churches, some people are detained without trial for a long time and others are tried without recourse to defence lawyers. The committee finds that beating and deprivation of sleep are common procedures before trial. Last November, one defendant, Sub Kwang-tae, a medical student, removed his clothes in court to reveal bruises and cigarette burns on his body. He said these had been inflicted to make him admit to being a communist.

The Human Rights Committee has files on 117 political prisoners, almost all of whom were arrested under Emergency Decree No 9, but says there are many more unknown detainees. There were 18 people sentenced last year in connection with the Myongdong declaration, sweeping away the Government's announcement in March from the Myongdong Roman Catholic cathedral in Seoul. It called for the removal of Emergency Decree No 9 and the Yushin Constitution and asserted that Korean workers and farmers were being exploited by foreign capital.

Its conclusion was that "the way to defeat communism and the short cut to national unification is developing the democratic potential".

Among the signatories of the declaration, Kim Dae-jung, a former presidential candidate who was abducted from Tokyo by the KCIA in 1973, and Yoo Po-sun, the President of Korea before the military coup d'état in 1961. Both received eight-year sentences which were reduced to five years by the Appellate Court and have now been referred to the Supreme Court.

On December 8 a similar declaration, calling for the abolition of the Yushin Constitution and the emergency decree and punishment for those involved in the Washington bribery scandal, was launched during a demonstration by about 500 students at Seoul National University.

If dismantling of the internal security apparatus depends on the conclusion of a non-aggression pact with North Korea, as suggested by the Minister of Information, the future for opponents of President Park looks grim. Relations between North and South are confined to working-level Red Cross meetings on humanitarian problems (about 10 million families are affected by the division of Korea).

There have been no meetings since March, 1975, of the North-South Coordinating Committee, set up in 1972 to work towards reunification of the peninsula. The hot line between Seoul and Pyongyang was cut soon after the axe killings at Panmunjom last August so

Visiting South Korea you are soon struck by that country's obsession with security. In the course of daily life you come across so much evidence of military preparedness.

This includes the curfew from midnight to 4 am in Seoul, which has been in force since the Second World War and has conditioned the nocturnal habits of an entire generation of Koreans; the allocation of more than one third of the budget to defence; the monthly civil defence drill in which the entire population is required to shelter in buildings, stretches of motorway with central reservations so that they can quickly be turned into airfields; the lowering of blinds on a civilian flight at night over Taegu to hide the air force base there; the shout of 'pil seong' (victory) by soldiers as they salute and the marching songs of the presidential guard.

No peace agreement exists between North and South Korea, merely an armed truce which brought the Korean war to an end on July 27, 1953. More than one million troops are ranged on either side of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), a two-and-a-half-mile-wide corridor which cuts diagonally across the 38th Parallel. Despite the mutual defence treaty signed in 1953, South Korea is assisted by about 41,000 American troops, including 33,000 of the United States Army (one division with support troops), 8,300 from the United States Air Force (one air division with support) and 200 sailors and marines.

It is estimated that South Korea has an army of 520,000, an air force of 30,000, navy of 25,000 and a 20,000-strong division of Marines while reserves and para-military forces amount to more than two million. The period of conscription for the Army and Marines is two and a half years and three years for the Navy and Air Force.

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The South Koreans have

to hold the front line come what may. This means above all the defence of Seoul, which has more than 7,250,000 inhabitants, nearly one fifth of the population. There are about 300,000 combat-ready Korean soldiers deployed to a depth of 32 miles behind the DMZ.

At its nearest point the front line is only 25 miles from Seoul. The capital is already within range of North Korea's Frog missiles and its northern outskirts could be hit from artillery positions around Kaesong.

The North Korean army, which includes battalions of Honam, John and other nuclear missiles and the ability to call on powerful air and naval reinforcements, is thought sufficient to deter any such action.

The nature of the American commitment to South Korea cannot be fully understood. The American forces in Korea cannot have been lost on the North Korean front line, but the Americans have been killed in the Korean conflict.

The Korean First Army, comprising eight divisions, guards the eastern sector of the front line. The Second Army, which is responsible for logistics and training,

A country heavily dependent on overseas trade

by Kim Sam-o

South Korea's growing economy, on which it draws heavily in coping with its northern rival, is perhaps just out of the long and tedious tunnel that started with the world fuel shortage of late 1973. A quick approximate guide is the country's balance of payments.

Because of soaring bills for oil imports and, at the time of the oil-related recession, sagging exports, South Korea suffered a record trade deficit of \$2,000m in 1974. Last year it reduced the deficit to less than \$3m, a figure that surprised even its own economic planners.

"The difficult times are over", Government officials say. Their sigh of relief is

South Korea is devoid of vital natural resources to earn hard currency. A country of high density of population, it depends heavily on manufacturing industry and external trade for a self-sustaining economy. Trade accounts for the equivalent of more than 70 per cent of its gap. In addition, it still has to borrow foreign capital to build new industries and to pay back loans.

So the way it survived what many described as an exchange crisis during 1974-75 was observed carefully both at home and abroad.

Obviously a recovery of the economy of the main importing countries was the reason for the turning of the tide. Merchandise exports last year, when finally tallied after settlement, totalled \$8,120m, representing a growth of nearly 50 per cent over the previous year. The growth of imports during the 11 months ended in November was a little under 19.3 per cent.

The brisk rate of export shipment led South Korea's economy to grow by 15.2 per cent in real terms, a rate only in the boom year of 1973.

Such rapid growth rates of both exports and the economy were far above those forecast by planners early in the year, and in December they had to adjust substantially upwards important targets in the fourth five-year economic plan.

About two years ago South Korea had to pay high inter-

est on foreign loans. With improvements in payments and, apparently, in the money market it is now in a far better position to acquire these funds.

South Korea, boasting foreign reserve holdings of \$2,61m last November, nearly twice those of 1975, says the figure should reach \$4,400m in 1981, the end of the present five-year plan.

Given a breathing space, South Korea has also managed to reduce the portion of loans in its debt total that are on less favourable terms. The amount of foreign credit maturing in less than one year, mostly incurred to finance imports, has started to level off at about \$2,000m since last year.

Low wages continue to be the main ingredient in the competitiveness of South Korean industry. However, with concern growing about equitable distribution of wealth, and inflation creeping up, that may soon no longer be true.

Inflation in South Korea is import-related but, because of a policy to stimulate agricultural production, rises in the price of food were greater than those in other products last year.

Despite the lack of active trade unions in South Korea, factory workers have been getting a fair share of the growing prosperity, according to the Economic Planning Board. During the 1963-75 period, South Korea's gross national product increased by an annual average of 9.7 per cent. The proposed target for 1973-76 period took into account the probable growth rates of economy and trade in the United States, Japan and the EEC, which receive more than 80 per cent of South Korea's exports.

An uncertain factor in these areas, however, is a growing tendency to protectionism. South Korea's exports are still largely made up of items produced by labour-intensive light industry which are more liable to quotas than are heavy industrial goods.

The dependence on trade makes it imperative for South Korea to maintain good relations with her trading partners. Its "economic diplomacy" is necessary not only to sell more goods but also to buy raw materials such as petroleum, iron ore and raw cotton on long-term stabilized contracts.

The author is deputy economic editor, The Korea Herald.

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Self-help villages get more aid

shops. Electrification and mechanization play an important part at this stage.

In 1971 almost all villages in the country were officially designated underdeveloped. In 1973, 30 per cent were classified underdeveloped, 60 per cent developing and 10 per cent developed. By 1975 the figures were 10 per cent, 60 per cent and 30 per cent. The plan is that all will be developed by 1981.

To some extent Saemaul arose out of the success of South Korea's industrial boom. Officials in Seoul never tire of proudly quoting the improvements made in recent years in per capita income. There is less mention of its distribution. Even critics of the Government have told me that they agree with the policy of laissez faire capitalism aimed at increasing the size of the national cake as quickly as possible without worrying too much about how it is sliced up.

The Government recognized, however, that dangers existed in neglecting rural development and rapid industrial expansion. Whatever the difficulties of income distribution that still exist, the gap between town and countryside has been removed. In the late 1960s rural incomes were about 60 per cent of urban ones. Now they are at least on a par. The average rural income is four times what it was in 1970. If Saemaul were to achieve nothing else, success could be claimed on these figures.

Of prime importance in the movement is the role of the village leaders. They are elected by the villagers, chair their discussions on likely projects and guide their work.

President Park emphasized at a national Saemaul rally in December that joint ventures must be selected only through agreement by the local people. Villagers should be the masters of the campaign, he said, with the Government assisting from the sidelines.

One of the most impressive aspects of the movement is the emergence of the brightest and the best villagers as leaders in their communities. These men and women are given instruction on self-help methods at Government centres not only by technicians but also by other village leaders who have

had insufficient tax revenue to finance. According to Dr. Kim Jae-ik, a director at the Economic Planning Board, five million new jobs have been provided over the past 15 years. A further two million are needed under the 1977-81 plan.

The worst conditions seem to prevail in the cities, especially Seoul, to which people come from the country in search of work. One clergyman told *The Times* that there were about 100 slum areas scattered around the capital, consisting of huts, shacks and tents. In some cases two or three families rent the same hut in shifts to sleep.

In one part of Seoul, where an elevated motorway is being built, people are moved out and taken by lorries to areas which are far removed from public transport and jobs. Theoretically, they should be compensated for eviction but the majority receive nothing because they are tenants, not owners.

Reports on working conditions are no better. There are buildings divided into lots three or four feet high in which girls of 15 or 16 sit for up to 18 hours a day sewing garments by hand. In one factory, where conditions are considered good, the starting wage is 400 won (about 44p) a day.

Wages may rise to about 830 won (just over £1) a day after four or five years but in some companies the workers never get more than the starting wage. Temporary labourers, who should be put on a permanent basis and receive fringe benefits after 30 days with one employer, are dismissed at the end of that period and then rehired as temporaries.

South Korea has a labour law which sets a minimum age and a kind of minimum wage for employment and prescribes an eight-hour working day. However, in the drive for economic growth its provisions are not enforced and the trade unions are too weak to do anything about it.

The Government remains committed to economic growth but has recently shown greater awareness of the poorer sections of society and the threat to political stability which large discrepancies in personal income contain.

We should bear in mind that there are still many poor and unfortunate countries in our neighbourhood," President Park said in his New Year speech.

Ostentatious expenditure is tantamount to hurting all our national unity."

This concern is expressed also in the fourth five-year plan, according to which investment in education and manpower development, health, housing, water and sewage facilities will amount to about 57,655m (£4,508m), a rise of 79 per cent over the previous plan.

The most urgent need is housing which, by comparison with food and clothing, is extremely expensive in South Korea. For example, the

farmers they had met at the centres to see for themselves the problems and achievements.

Mixing with the farmers at these training centres are a wide variety of white-collar workers from the towns—civil servants, journalists, teachers, businessmen who have "volunteered" with varying degrees of enthusiasm to take part in a Saemaul course. The idea is that they should learn from the farmers what is happening in the villages. In turn they can help the farmers with more advanced ideas.

It is a most impressive experience for intellectuals to learn what can be achieved by uneducated people in practical terms".

Another concern is that village leaders receive no pay for their Saemaul work, and some drop out for this reason.

Some of the urban re-

cruises, he said, would afterwards visit the villages of

the key money for renting one room in Seoul is likely to be at least 300,000 won (about £610).

Government statistics show that 1,649,000 families had no housing of their own at the end of 1975. In the southern port of Pusan 45.9 per cent and in Seoul 46.5 per cent of families were in this state. The figure for rural areas was only 8 per cent, giving a national average of 25 per cent.

The plan calls for building 1,230,000 dwellings during the next five years, about half of them in Seoul. Of these the Government will finance 512,000 at a cost of 600,000 won (£133m) and the remainder will be built by private companies. During the first three five-year plans the state financed the construction of only 367,000 dwellings.

An official at the Bureau of Housing and Urban Planning said he thought that only about 85 per cent of the overall target would be achieved unless the Government lowered capital gains tax on property transactions.

Construction by the private sector has slumped since it was imposed.

Purchasers of state housing can borrow money over a long period on concessionary terms. A typical case would be a one-year grace period followed by repayment over 14 years at 8 per cent annual interest. Those with insufficient capital to buy can rent for 40 sq metres at 520 won (about £11.75). Key money is about £600 (about £335).

Medical expenses can also make a noticeable dent in personal income in South Korea. On January 10 the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs announced that hospital charges would rise by up to 40 per cent and drug prices by 25 per cent this year. The cost of staying in a ward with six beds will be 1,000 won (21.34) a day. The fee for a normal child birth will be 6,700 won (23.19) and for outpatient examination, 300 won (5p).

However, the Government has begun to introduce a state health system, which it plans to expand each year. Since the beginning of January 2,095,000 people have been eligible for medical protection. They fall into two categories: those who cannot make a living and families whose average income per head is less than 4,500 won (£5.50) a month. As outpatients both categories receive free treatment from Government clinics or private clinics designated by the Government. As inpatients, the first category receives free treatment while the second gets up to 30 per cent of costs as a grant and has to pay back the remainder over the next two years interest free. The Government has set aside 12,000 won (about £15m) for medical protection this year.

On July 1 a new medical insurance scheme will be introduced. All companies with 500 or more employees and companies of whatever size with special industrial complexes will have to establish medical insurance unions. Payment of premiums, which can be fixed by the unions at between 3 and 8 per cent of gross salary, will be shared equally between employers and employees. The Government will subsidize part of the administrative costs.

A national pension law was passed by the National Assembly in 1975 but has not yet been carried out because of controversy over contributions. It is now hoped to introduce it in 1978. Contributions will amount to 7 per cent of gross pay, 3 per cent coming from the employee and the rest from the employer. The Government will provide subsidies on top of this.

The state's greatest outlay on social welfare so far has been on education, which took 16 per cent of the budget last year, second only to defence. Koreans set great store by education and press them into the ground. The dancers receive money, food and wine for their shamanistic services.

Legend has it that the name shaman, or mudang in Korean, originated among proto-historic Siberian tribes. Shamanism is based on the belief that the visible world is pervaded by invisible forces or spirits that affect the lives of the living. The role of the shaman is to shield man

centuries: show that through them they can make a wallow in fatalis. It also typifie Park's personal vitics and Koreanocracy. There is piction in the We is justified, of a democratic natu 1972 Yushin cor

Along with the material benefits claimed for the movement, as more villages become developed so their leaders will find it more difficult to plan and introduce the increasingly complex projects needed to maintain progress. This will be more difficult after 1981.

To a great extent spiru

reform simply means convincing country people that they should throw off the apathy that has weak

official confidence in their communities for

The author is F Editor, The Tim

Urgent need is housing

by Simon Scott

Plummer

Through rapid economic growth South Korea has escaped from the poverty in which a combination of isolationism during the Yi dynasty, occupied by the Japanese and the Korean War had reduced it.

Evidence of new wealth lies in the blocks of flats which have sprung up in the cities, the tiles and asbestos sheets which have largely replaced thatch as roofing material in the countryside. The achievement of self-sufficiency in rice and barley, the staple foods, and the growing range of consumer goods in the shops.

In statistical terms, the gross national product per capita in 1976 prices, rose from \$242 to about \$1,424 in 1976, the beginning of the first five-year plan, to an estimated \$669 (about £140) last year. Income per head was about 80 per cent of these figures.

The Government has sought to raise living standards by the creation of jobs not through social welfare programmes, which it had insufficient tax revenue to finance. According to Dr. Kim Jae-ik, a director at the Economic Planning Board, five million new jobs have been provided over the past 15 years. A further two million are needed under the 1977-81 plan.

The worst conditions seem to prevail in the cities, especially Seoul, to which people come from the country in search of work. One clergyman told *The Times* that there were about 100 slum areas scattered around the capital, consisting of huts, shacks and tents. In some cases two or three families rent the same hut in shifts to sleep.

In one part of Seoul, where an elevated motorway is being built, people are moved out and taken by lorries to areas which are far removed from public transport and jobs. Theoretically, they should be compensated for eviction but the majority receive nothing because they are tenants, not owners.

Reports on working conditions are no better. There are buildings divided into lots three or four feet high in which girls of 15 or 16 sit for up to 18 hours a day sewing garments by hand. In one factory, where conditions are considered good, the starting wage is 400 won (about 44p) a day.

Wages may rise to about 830 won (just over £1) a day after four or five years but in some companies the workers never get more than the starting wage. Temporary labourers, who should be put on a permanent basis and receive fringe benefits after 30 days with one employer, are dismissed at the end of that period and then rehired as temporaries.

South Korea has a labour law which sets a minimum age and a kind of minimum wage for employment and prescribes an eight-hour working day. However, in the drive for economic growth its provisions are not enforced and the trade unions are too weak to do anything about it.

The Government remains committed to economic growth but has recently shown greater awareness of the poorer sections of society and the threat to political stability which large discrepancies in personal income contain.

We should bear in mind that there are still many poor and unfortunate countries in our neighbourhood," President Park said in his New Year speech.

Ostentatious expenditure is tantamount to hurting all our national unity."

This concern is expressed also in the fourth five-year plan, according to which investment in education and manpower development, health, housing, water and sewage facilities will amount to about 57,655m (£4,508m), a rise of 79 per cent over the previous plan.

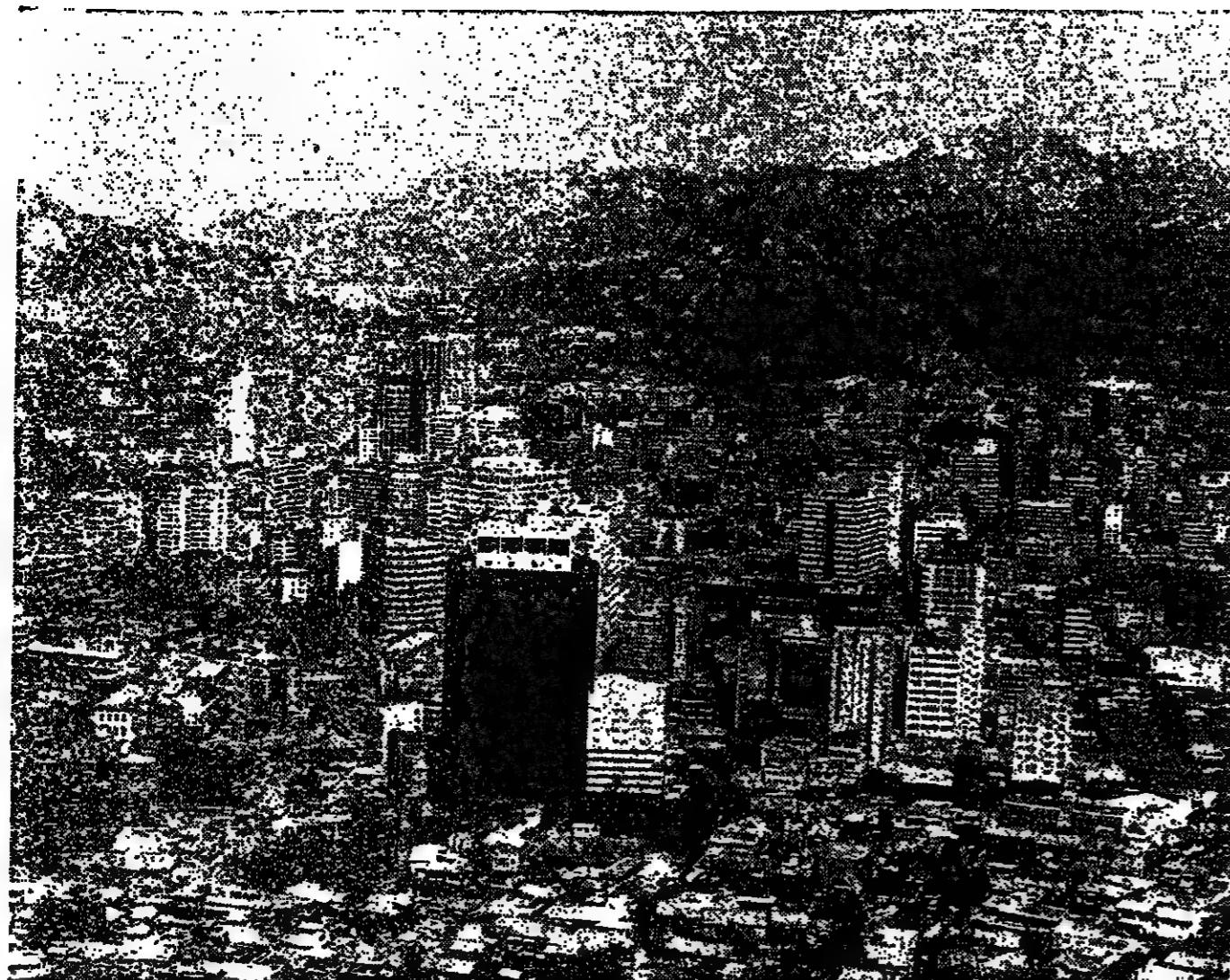
The most urgent need is housing which, by comparison with food and clothing, is extremely expensive in South Korea. For example, the

quarters of them subscribe with half the te and about the same proportion of middle school pupils, which difficulty in k it was plan this system th country but ob so strong that ment stopped has not yet de to push on wit and abandon

With entr high schools and da competitive exa pressure on pu Even at pri parents arrange for their give them a hea

During the fo plan the Govt to spend ab (2941m) on sc to lower the av of pupils in pri classes to 60 in and 45 in rural percentage of p going on to m will rise

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Seoul, capital of the Republic of Korea, and its underground. The city, the largest in Korea, has a population of over 7.2 million.

Korea looks confidently ahead after

A YEAR OF UNPRECEDENTED PROGRESS

In the Republic of Korea they will remember 1976 as a year of wonders filled, as President Park Chung Hee said in his New Year Message, "with greater rewards and rejoicing than any year in the past". It saw the triumphant completion of the Third Five-Year Plan, with results exceeding the most optimistic expectations, a bumper harvest despite various natural disasters, and dynamic industrial growth. Taking into account the unsettled state of China following the death of Mao Tse-tung and the unrest in other neighbouring countries, it was the year in which Korea emerged as the most stable economy in the Far East. A nation made prosperous by capitalism (the agreeable face), Korea now stands ready to make further advances through its Fourth Five-Year Plan, confident in its economic strength and at last poised to reap the rich rewards of long, hard years of toil. Economically the Republic of Korea has accomplished what it said it would accomplish. It has arrived.

The "Managed Miracle"

This was the name given by the world of industry and commerce to the transformation of Korea from a backward, war-stricken country to one that now bids fair to become a leading industrial nation of the western Pacific. The change has been brought about in the amazingly short period of 15 years and it has been wrought not so much by a miracle but, as President Park has said, by "the blood, sweat and tears 35 million people of Korea have given for the country". To which must be added skilful planning and a natural aptitude for creating the sort of climate that would attract foreign investment.

The First Five-Year Plan, launched in 1962, restored national confidence and by developing infrastructure and export-oriented light industry provided a basic foundation for further development. The Second Five-Year Plan, launched in 1967, saw the promotion of other export industries including synthetic fibres, electrical equipment and petrochemical products, and the development of the heavy and chemical industries. Both the export of consumer goods and the import substitute of raw materials increased, and there was considerable expansion of the road and communications networks. The Third Five-Year Plan, just completed, has seen impressive advances in iron and steel production, shipbuilding, the automobile industry and the manufacture of electronic and electrical equipment. As a result, the Gross National Product has increased 12 times over 1961, the per capita GNP increase being eight times. Exports, which in 1961 amounted to little more than \$40 million, soared to over \$8,100 million in 1976, an increase of about 200 times, the export expansion rate in that year alone being 50 per cent.

The Pattern for the Future

The Fourth Five-Year Plan (1977-81), based on the principles of "growth", "efficiency" and "social equity", aims at nothing less than a self-sufficient economy. The plan gives top priority to the iron and steel, nonferrous metal, petrochemical and electronics industries and to

training highly skilled technicians for precision engineering and other advanced industries. Special emphasis will be placed on developing the machine industry as part of the upgrading of the industrial structure and more particularly to meet defence requirements. The export target of \$10,000 million is expected to be reached well ahead of schedule and to exceed \$20,000 million by the end of 1981. By that time at the latest balance should be achieved in international payments and the per capita GNP should exceed \$1,500.

The plan also provides for the advancement of living standards and the social welfare of the people. A free medical aid programme has already been introduced and a start will soon be made on a medical insurance system. More and better housing, improved water supply and more funds for education come within its scope, the ultimate aim being "to create a society in which all the people equally share in the affluence".

Growth and Investment

Although the Fourth Five-Year Plan envisages a considerable increase in domestic savings—indeed the hope is that Korea will be able to provide all her investment needs from domestic resources in 1981—investment from abroad will almost certainly be needed during the plan period though perhaps not on the scale envisaged a few months ago, when some sources were talking in terms of \$10 billion. So there are still opportunities for foreign enterprises wishing to invest in Korea's success.

The active encouragement of foreign investments has been basic government policy since planning began in the early 1960s. To attract the investor valuable incentives, guarantees and privileges under such measures as the Foreign Capital Inducement Act of 1964 have been provided. They include complete exemption from corporate, income, property and acquisition taxes for the first five years of operation, and 50 per cent of these taxes for a further three years. Foreign investors are guaranteed repatriation of capital and remittance of profits, and the full protection of their property by law.*

There is no legal limit on the foreign investment ratio, but for the most part joint ventures with 50 per cent foreign participation are preferred to those involved 100 per cent foreign ownership. The minimal foreign investment in certain industries—for example shipbuilding, petrochemicals and metals—is \$200,000. But in others such as electronics and machinery it may be only \$100,000 provided the project is economically viable, or even \$50,000 for export projects using domestic raw materials and requiring advanced technology.

* Further information can be obtained by writing direct to the Bureau of Foreign Investment Promotion, The Economic Planning Board, Seoul, Korea; or by contacting The Korean Embassy, 4 Palace Gate, London W8 5NF (Tel: 01-581 0247).

Free Export Zones and Industrial Estates

A vital part in the balanced development of the economy has been played by the free export zones and industrial estates established by the government "for the benefit of foreign business interests". There are some 24 of them and they are already contributing more than 20 per cent of Korea's exports. By the early 1980s their share of exports will have increased to more than 30 per cent.

The estates have all the infrastructure and facilities one might expect and offer all the usual incentives and privileges to the foreign investor. The two free export zones have excellent port facilities and, like the other industrial estates, have management offices of the Industrial Estates Administration (IEA) on site to handle the administrative and other problems of resident industries. The industrial estates have been so successful that experts have come from a number of other countries to study the Korean way of going about things.

The older and slightly larger of the two free export zones is Masan, occupying more than 233 acres of reclaimed land near the south coast seaport-city of that name. More than 100 foreign companies are established in MAFEZ, as the zone is called, occupying either privately-constructed factories or government-built standard factories.

Lack of space at Masan led to the establishment in 1973 of the Iri free export zone (IFEX) on some 228 acres near the west coast port of Gunsan. Intended mainly for light industry Iri, like Masan, is a bonded government estate where tax and customs regulations are waived or suspended to allow the free flow of equipment, raw materials and semi-finished goods for the assembly or manufacture of export products.

The Gumi Export Industrial Estate covers more than 2,600 acres beside the Naedong River and adjoining the Seoul-Pusan Express Highway. It was established in 1973 to promote the growth of the electronics industry by concentrating it in one area, although Gumi also turns out textiles and other more general products. The Korea Export Industrial Corporation has six estates covering a total of 820 acres in the Yongdungpo and Inchon areas near Seoul. Established in 1964, the Corporation was the first of its kind in the republic and today its estates accommodate some 343 companies including more than 90 joint-venture firms.

The Korean Government has established six special complexes in the eastern and southern coastal areas for expansion of the machinery, shipbuilding, petrochemical and iron and steel industries. One of the most impressive is the new industrial city of Changwon in the south coast heavy and chemical industrial belt near the Masan free export zone. Changwon is essentially a machine industry

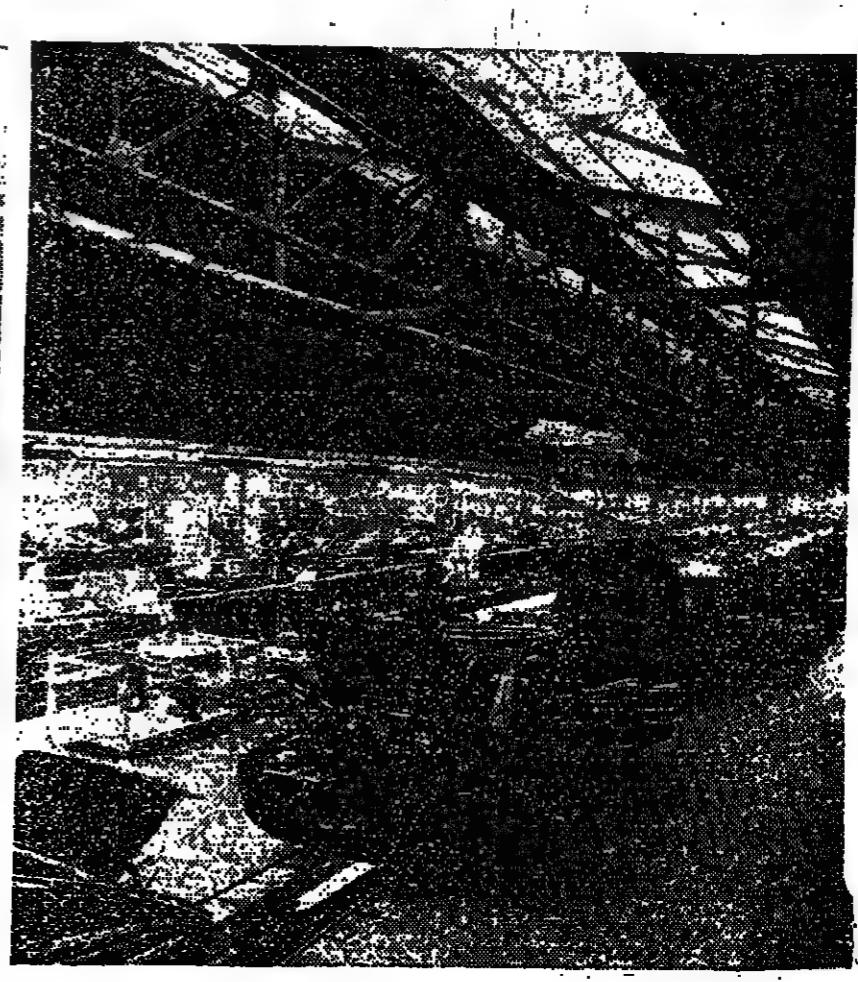
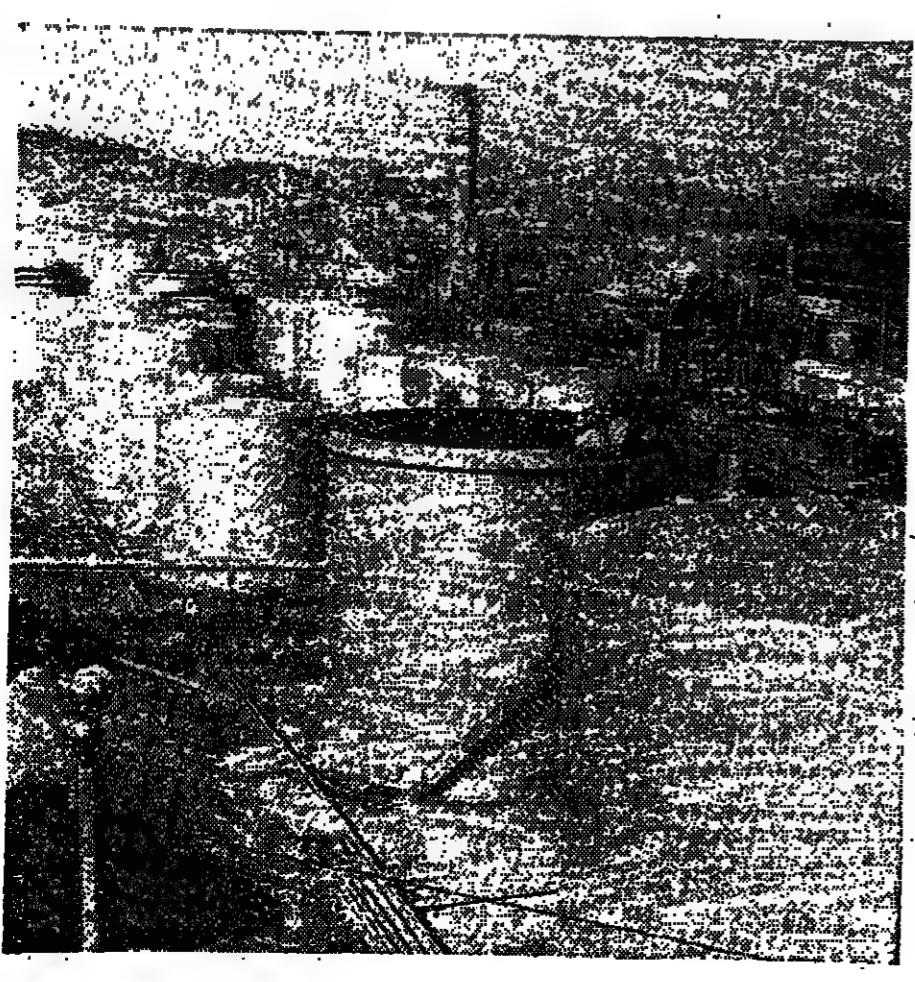
complex, a home for large-scale enterprises manufacturing materials, primary components, high-grade precision machine tools and the like, and able to compete effectively in international markets. Tools, dies and moulds, hydraulic devices, gears and transmissions, bearings, bolts and metal-working machinery, engine blocks, propeller shafts, marine equipment, textile and chemical machinery, mobile components—all these come within Changwon's scope. Needless to say, since its inception in 1974 Changwon has attracted numerous companies including foreign investment companies. It is adjacent to good ports and highways and future plans include modern harbour facilities of its own and ultimately a residential community of 200,000 people.

Contrasts, South and North

Nothing could be more marked at the end of the contrast between the confident, busy, hoc Republic of Korea and its communist neighbour to the north, the neurotic looking-glass world* of Kim Il Sung. For if 1976 had been a year of wonders for the South, it was certainly a year of disasters for the North. Economically the North was in dire straits, dependent on imported raw materials for many of its factories yet weighed down by debt to foreign creditors and with barely enough to sustain its people. It is always difficult to get reliable information about the North, but experienced Pyongyang watchers considered that 80 per cent of factories depending on imported raw materials and more than 50 per cent of those using domestic materials were not operating during 1976. Shortage of food and other daily necessities were as good as admitted by Kim Il Sung himself in his morose New Year message.

It was a bad year, too, in international affairs. The North's attempts at Colombo to drum up support for anti-Americanism failed, and if the non-aligned movement represented at that conference had any doubts about the true nature of Kimilsungism, they were soon awoken by the axe murders at Panmunjom in August. With all hope of success at the UN General Assembly gone, the North suffered fresh degradation of its narcotic smuggling activities ranging as far afield as Scandinavia and Peru were exposed.

The South, with its customary and seemingly inexhaustible patience, once more urged the North to come to the conference table so that the future of the Korean peninsula might be determined by Korean President Park undertook to agree to the departure of American troops from the republic if only Kim Il Sung would sign a non-aggression pact. But Pyongyang refused to remain rooted in its ancient prejudice against Kim Il Sung in his family power struggles and planned a grandiose palace which, it is said, is to be larger than the Kremlin.



Left: The Ulsan oil refinery; Right: "Pony" car assembly line; Above: shipbuilding at Mipo Bay, Ulsan.

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A GREAT CULTURAL REVIVAL

CHERISHING THE PAST WHILE BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

The promotion of culture should begin with the rediscovery of our national culture and the restoration of our cultural identity."

President Park Chung Hee, January 1977

While the rapid economic development of Korea over the last 25 years has naturally had a claim on world attention, there have also been considerable achievements in other spheres of the nation's life, equally impressive in their way. Not the least of these achievements is found in the great cultural revival which the country is experiencing, and which has been gathering momentum in more recent years. This is a process of rediscovery and restoration, more than an expression of national pride, reaffirmation and strengthening of national identity and a source of inspiration for the future.

Almost as soon as the Republic of Korea was established in 1948 work began on compiling a list of National Treasures for permanent government protection and support. These National Treasures—there are now more than 180 of them—are not merely historic sites and buildings, rare works of art and precious artefacts; they also include folk dramas, dances and music, many of which can be traced back 1,000 years or more, and the artisies and groups whose performances keep them alive. Old crafts and traditional sports are also cherished. The weave of cultural heritage is rich and varied.

religious origins. All are colourful and a delight to the eye.

Since World War II Korea has proved remarkably receptive to Western influences in the performing arts and now has symphony orchestras, opera and ballet companies and drama groups. Some artists such as the gifted Chung family have won international reputations. Art, music, literature, drama—there are few spheres of culture which have not been penetrated to a greater or lesser extent by Western ideas and techniques, and the question now exercising Korean minds is the extent to which these foreign intrusions should be allowed free rein. Has not the time come to be far more selective in accepting cultural trends from abroad? Has not the country been unduly exposed to the harmful and spurious as well as the good and beneficial?

Such questions have particular relevance. Small countries with troubled histories like Korea need everything they can lay hands on to preserve and strengthen their sense of nationhood against powerful external pressures. A strong sense of national identity, rooted in an indigenous and thriving culture, will enable a people to survive no end of storms and stresses.

In the case of Korea this much was realized when the First Five-Year Plan for Restoration of Literature and Arts was launched in 1974 with a budget of \$52 million. To implement the plan a Cultural and Arts Promotion Council and an Arts Promotion Institute were set up and a nationwide campaign begun to assess what has to be done. The Folklore Museum, King Sejong Memorial Hall and the Korean Folk Village were all products of the plan, and much has also been done to promote creative activities and literary appreciation. There has been careful discriminatory appraisal of Western influences throughout.

The campaign to preserve and extend traditional culture has recently received strong support from President Park. At his New Year Press Conference in January, 1977, he called for a "rediscovery" of Korea's national culture. He made the point, however, that this did not mean unconditional rejection of all foreign cultural influences, a course which would leave Korea in unhealthy isolation. It is judicious selectivity he is after and many people, looking at what often passes for culture in the West nowadays, will sympathize with his aims.

Uniquely Korean

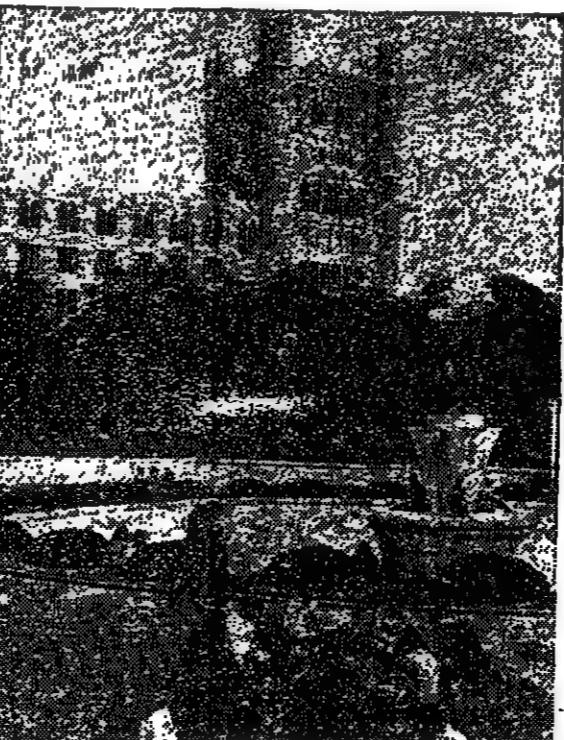
What is more surprising is that in most cases the cultural heritage is uniquely Korean. One would expect the Korean peninsula, historically a much-fought-over land bridge between the Asian mainland and Japan, to have been subject to powerful cultural influences from without and so to have developed strongly imitative art forms. But while it is true, for example, that early Korean painting was much influenced by Chinese painting, Korean artists soon moved away from the more formal aspects of Chinese painting, abandoning its disciplines for an altogether lighter and more uninhibited style of their own which in time became an unmistakably national style, most evident in paintings of animals and mist-shrouded mountains and reaching its apogee during the later Yi Dynasty (1392-1910). Today some Korean painters are content to base their work on that of famous Western painters. Others find their inspiration, and sometimes their styles, in Korea's past and this trend seems likely to increase. Plans are being made to bring a small but representative collection of modern Korean paintings for exhibition in London.

Sculpture received its impetus from Buddhism, an imported religion, and was directly based on Chinese techniques. Metalwork was also closely associated with Buddhism, outstanding exceptions being the moulded bronze artefacts from tombs dating from the third century BC and the superb gold crowns and ornaments from royal tomb mounds of the Unified Silla Kingdom (668-935 AD). One of the most famous of these tombs, the Flying Horse Tomb in Kyungju has recently been refurbished as a display centre for replicas of objects found in the tomb, many of the originals being in the Kyungju National Museum nearby.

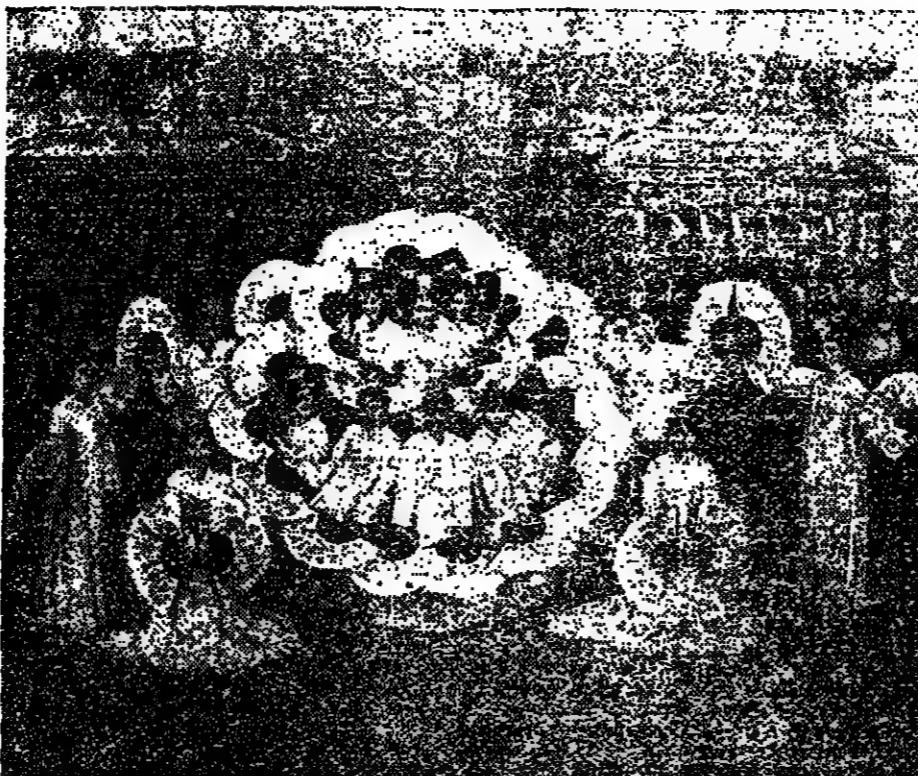
Korea is justly known for its ceramics, particularly the exquisite celadon ware of the Koryo Dynasty (935-1392 AD) and the white porcelain of the Yi Dynasty, in which the natural artistry of Korean craftsmen found its highest expression. Ceramics, too, provide an example of outgoing influences. During the Japanese invasions of 1592-98, the Japanese not only made off with valuable books and priceless art treasures; they also took to Japan many Korean potters whose skills were used to establish a fine ceramics industry.

The Performing Arts

This coming August the Korean Folk Arts Troupe will be visiting London for a two-week season at the Sadler's Wells Theatre. This will be a rare opportunity to see some of the leading performers of Korea's National Classical Music Institute and National Dance Company. The music, performed on flutes, double reeds, drums and gongs, may hark back to the royal courts of more than 1,000 years ago or may be of a much livelier kind associated with village life. The repertoire includes the stately and stylized dances of the court and the simpler folk dances evocative of the countryside and agriculture. Some dances have



Students relaxing between classes at Korea University, Seoul.



Dancers of the Korean Folk Arts Group.

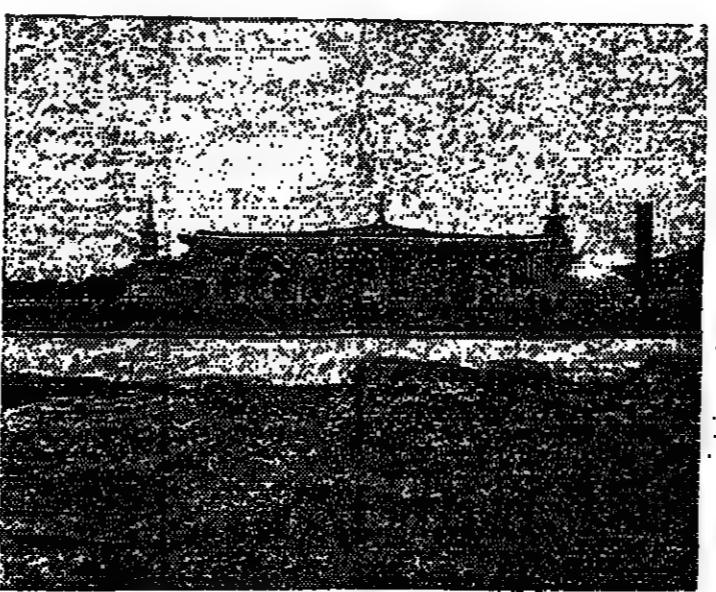


17th-century white porcelain vase (Yi).

early 13th-century celadon ware (Koguryo).



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National museum of Kyungju.

ers of the National Classical Music Institute perform Korean music with different types of instruments.

Charming writings little studied by western readers

by Richard Rutt

They cared less for the writers of Tang. Li Po's wit and technique was admired, but Kyubo significantly preferred Po Chü-i to other Tang poets and echoed Po Chü-i in his own poems of Buddhist ideas received from Tang China. At the same time Chinese script, and with it Chinese literary language, began to dominate Korean culture.

In later years Yi Kyubo turned to Buddhism under the influence of the *dharmika* school, and wrote poems that provide a fascinating demonstration of thirteenth-century lay Buddhist devotion.

From then onwards

Korean writing reflects the changes of Chinese taste. With the Yi dynasty, at the end of the fourteenth century, came the eclipse of Buddhism as a political force and cultural influence in the Korean court. Confucianism, in the syncretistic form of Chu Hsi and his school, became the country's sole orthodoxy until the end of the nineteenth century.

Fiction is a more limited field. Those who wrote in Chinese from the twelfth century onwards produced large numbers of essays, many of which were brief. Shortish novels in Chinese appear in Korea from the seventeenth century onwards.

Subjects include love stories, often with a high moral tone, but with frank eroticism and much dialogue; tales of colour in the form of fictionalized history using both Korean and Chinese themes; and realistic reportage of events in Korean history.

After 1640 the Ching emperors received only grudging loyalty from Korea, but the Ching development of critical scholarship was avidly greeted by Korean writers. Historians reexamined Korean origins, poets took an interest in textual questions, and everyone aimed at becoming a scientific polymath.

A dismissed tradition

The Korean poetic tradition has been too easily dismissed as a pale imitation of the Chinese. The fostering of criticism led to a deepened appreciation of native elements.

Poetry in Chinese was the delight of the ruling class. Vernacular folk literature was abundant but ephemeral, and even after the invention of the native script in the fifteenth century, little was printed in Korean.

By the twelfth century Korea's rulers had begun to feel a responsibility for the editing of history. Two major works are extant: *Sangju sagi*, a Confucian-inspired account of Korean history, compiled at the royal command; and *Sangju yusa*, the slightly later, more anecdotal work of a Buddhist monk which preserves better the flavour of the non-Chinese tradition.

The Koryo period, reaching its cultural peak about the time of the Mongol expansion into China in the thirteenth century, developed a highly literary culture at the royal court. Verse compositions were a qualification for political office.

The earliest writer to leave a considerable quantity of writing, Yi Kyubo (1162-1241), gained his first appointment to the Civil Service by writing a poem about a blossoming pomegranate in the garden of the military dictator's ostentatious town house. Yi Kyubo and his friends admired the poets of Sung China. The unaffected emotions of Su Tung-po's

"Love". It is a lying word. That you love me, another lie.

"The loved one is seen in dreams". That is still a greater lie. How can I, who can never sleep,

hope to see you in my dreams?

At the end of 10 years' work I have a hut with a straw roof. The clear wind lives in one half, and the bright moon in the other.

There's no space to invite the hills—

they will have to stay outside.

Literary collections show the development of an expanded form with domestic and vulgar subjects drawn from the department of folk song that tells of culinary disasters and the failings of mothers-in-law. These songs are quintessentially Korean, often witty and earthy, and de-lightfully uncontrived.

Fiction is a more limited field. Those who wrote in Chinese from the twelfth century onwards produced large numbers of essays, many of which were brief. Shortish novels in Chinese appear in Korea from the seventeenth century onwards.

Subjects include love stories, often with a high moral tone, but with frank eroticism and much dialogue; tales of colour in the form of fictionalized history using both Korean and Chinese themes; and realistic reportage of events in Korean history.

One of the longest and best is Kim Manjung's *Kut-un-mong* (nine cloud dream), an elaborate tale with a Chinese setting.

Novel-writing never developed in Korea as it did in China and Japan. The reason for this lay in Korea's social structures. There was no urban middle class, no bourgeoisie to support the publishing of novels. The Confucian establishment esteemed poetry but despised fiction; the peasantry was largely illiterate.

For the same reason—lack of a middle class—the theatre failed to emerge in Korea. Medieval religious plays turned into crude social satire about the gentry and the monks. They continued to be performed in country districts even after the Korean War of 1950-53, and many of them retained religious ceremonies connected with them.

They were earthy, and both plot and dialogue were transmitted by word of mouth, belonging rather to folk-lore than to literature. Korea's puritanical Confucianism regarded drama as trivial and stifled its literary development.

Korean literature is not great in quantity in comparison with the literatures of China and Japan. Seeing that the population of Korea was never much more than seven million before the beginning of this century, it is remarkable that a typical bibliography of traditional literature contains 5,500 titles.

The typical form is the *siyo*, usually three lines of about 15 syllables to the line. *Siyo* were usually sung by professional singers. Some of them were love poems, some philosophical and moral lyrics, many political satires. The majority are anonymous or pseudonymous.

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The author has published widely on Korean culture and literature in both English and Korean.

Tales of three novelists

by Chon Syng-bok

One cannot discuss the main stream of Korean literature today without acquainting oneself with three novelists in their early sixties—Hwang Sun-won, An Su-gil and Kim Tong-ni.

Hwang Sun-won was born in 1915 in Pyongyang and received higher education in Tokyo, where he specialized in English literature. He returned to Korea and was living there at the time of the Japanese surrender to the Allied Forces in 1945.

Like other people in arts and letters he remained hopelessly in the north but eventually made his way south in 1946 and has lived in Seoul since.

Hwang's major work, a novel entitled *The Descendants of Cain*, appeared in 1954 and was an instant success. The events take place in and around a small village in north Korea shortly after the division of Korea along the 38th Parallel in 1945. Hwang draws on his own experiences at that epochal period in Korea's history to describe what takes place in the character of, and relations between, various individuals under the impact of communism and redistribution of land.

The novel, however, is essentially a romance, not a political study. An English version of this novel was entitled *The Cry of Cuckoo* and published by Pan Korea Book Corporation in 1975. Another translation is being prepared by Richard Kim, author of *The Martyred*, for publication in the United States.

He spent his youth in Manchuria, where he moved from city to city, teaching children of Korean emigrants and writing for a newspaper. Scenes in his novel take place either in Manchuria or the north-eastern province of Korea, with which he is familiar.

A year after it first appeared the novel won the Asian Literary Award and its success resulted in Hwang's election to the Korean Academy of Arts.

Hwang's approach to his themes is often described by critics as "artistic". His in-

terest lies in the problems of overcoming the conflicts between man and society, a theme no doubt thrown sharply into relief during the sweeping changes that took place in Soviet-occupied North Korea after the surrender of the Japanese.

Hwang's themes are somewhat compartmentalized. Thus we can see a dominant attachment to exploring the man-woman relationship in *Folding the Umbrella* and *Nature*. The ties of friendship come under scrutiny in *One for the Road* and *Shadow of Voice* and, the ultimate standpoint, the individual vis-à-vis society, in *Winter Flower*. Parents and children are also put under the microscope in *Chats with my Mother in June*. This series is more than a little reminiscent of the traditional Confucian emphasis on the Five Relationships as the underpinnings of society.

A talented father

An Su-gil (b 1911) was born in Hamhung, a port city on the north-eastern coast; son of a talented but defenceless father who drifted down financially from house to house. Like his characters, he suffered hardship for a long time, and his lean face seemed with deep wrinkles seems to illustrate his early deprivation.

He spent his youth in Manchuria, where he moved from city to city, teaching children of Korean emigrants and writing for a newspaper. Scenes in his novel take place either in Manchuria or the north-eastern province of Korea, with which he is familiar.

Kim Tong-ni (1913) was born in Kyungju, the ancient capital of the Silla Kingdom (57BC-918). Son of a devoted Christian family, he reminisces about many of his childhood memories which are related to a church in his neighbourhood where he used to go with his mother every Sunday.

Kim spent his childhood and youth in a seriously religious atmosphere and this affected his writings. His major novels are somehow related to Christianity, Buddhism, Confucianism and Shamanism as well, and to the impact of the religions on Korean society.

continued on next page

Art is missing link between China and Japan

by Peter Hyun

To the average western art lover, Korean art will no doubt prove to be a revelation. For if the art of China and Japan is well known in the West, that of Korea is almost totally overlooked.

Yet Korean art is the missing link between that of China and Japan. There was little direct contact between the Japanese and Chinese until the nineteenth century, and before then the Koreans acted in a way as catalytic agents for those cultures.

The Chinese first came down into the northern part of the Korean peninsula as early as 400 BC. When they were finally driven from the country, they had left a lasting cultural imprint on the natives. They were, however, able to retain the colony of Nanyang far in the north, which served until the third century AD as a cultural bridge between China and Korea.

But, despite the strong impact of Chinese culture upon Korea, Korean art has always managed to maintain a peculiarly Korean quality, a kind of tranquil attitude in contrast to the rigid form of China or the highly decorative, if not nervous, style of Japanese art.

populated country, the tiger has disappeared. Well into this century tigers could be heard at night just outside the gates of Seoul but the last is believed to have been killed during the Korean War.

Cranes, however, are still to be seen in Korea. It is probably the main wintering ground for two species, both of which are endangered, as indeed are most species of crane, around the world. Flocks of Manchurian and white-naped cranes spend the winter in the open fields around Panmunjom in the demilitarized zone (DMZ) and on the marshes which form the estuary of both the Han and Imjin rivers.

Sadly, though almost invariably in such a densely

From the first century AD with the founding of the barks, clusters of leaf-shaped gold spangles hanging from their chains would brush against each other and dignified simplicity, the patterns also produced such technically intricate objects as incense burners, cosmetic boxes, pots and bowls.

There are also gold ear-rings whose design varies, some are simple and pure, ageless in their appeal. Others form complicated clusters, with thick gold lobes decorated with delicate filigree patterns, resembling early Grecian works and the contemporary Florentine jewelry.

The Kingdom of Silla grew in power until in the seventh century she was able to unite with the other kingdoms to form the United Kingdom of Silla, thus inaugurating the golden age of Korean art. The bronze gilt statues from this period are little more than the royal tombs lay hidden among the gentle hills and pine trees at Kyongju, Silla's capital. First brought to light by archaeologists in 1921, they have revealed a great number of magnificent treasures among the ancient royal graves.

Among them is a royal crown made of thin sheets of gold. From its tree-shaped uprights dangle bluish jade jewels and gold spangles. Gold wire attaches them to the main stem of the crown and allows them to swing freely. The slightest movement would cause all the tiny ornaments to glitter in the sunlight and create an effect of dazzling splendour.

This form of art has almost no parallel today, but its closest equivalent is perhaps the mobiles of Alexander Calder. From the base of the crown two pendants fall freely down past the ears and over the shoulders like

the museum also features comma-shaped jade ornaments (circa 700-300 BC) excavated recently from a royal tomb near Puyo, Paekche's ancient capital. These jade objects are older than the oldest relic of their kind in Japan, where scholars have for years asserted that comma-shaped jades, historically associated

by Michael Gore

Wild animals and birds have always held a special fascination for the Korean people. Flying cranes were a favourite decoration on the magnificent celadons of the Koryo period, when Korean potters were considered to be the finest in Asia, if not the world. Today tigers, cranes, egrets, wildfowl and a host of other birds continue to be portrayed as the most popular subjects in paintings and as incised or painted decoration on pottery; and most, if not quite all, can still be painted from the wild, for the Republic of Korea has a surprisingly large and varied wildlife.

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The DMZ is, in fact, a

small few leopards to be

seen in the more remote

areas.

Birds, however, abound,

some 370 species having been

recorded in the republic. The

many residents include the

ring-necked pheasant, the

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Steelmakers tell Brussels that EC crisis plan faces collapse

In Brussels, the Brussels Commission said that the Community anti-crisis plan was in collapse unless the Governments took a curb on the flow of imports from third countries. A Commission official said: "The Simonet plan is failing and has been welcomed by the steel industry as a stabilizing trade, it is the steelmakers themselves who are considering the measures.

A concern was expressed in a communiqué issued after the meeting of the governing European steelmakers. The associations formed in the end of last year to represent industry views and to communicate on such matters with the Commission. The communiqué noted that European steel industry entered its third year.

recognizing efforts by the Commission to apply its "Plan" (a reference to one voluntary sales and production cut) a governing body said that these efforts will be satisfactory results in deliveries of products within the Community would be reluctant to impose restrictions on steel imports.

He stressed that this could lead to difficulties with American steelmakers who were already worried that Japan's self-restraint agreement with the Community could lead to a diversion of Japanese exports to the United States.

Metall Box severs its links in Israel

Mr. Brilliant, chairman of Metall Box, said: "We have accepted a decision by the Israeli Can Company to terminate its partnership under from customers who were threatened with a boycott if they continued to buy from Metal Box.

Mr. Lev added that Metal Box had the option of offering its shares to the existing partners or seeking other buyers. There was nothing for

Consumer credit safeguards soon

By Ronald Emmer

Substantial and long-awaited additions to the protection of the public under the terms of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 were promised "within a matter of weeks" yesterday by Mr. John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

Speaking to a London conference on the Act he promised regulations covering aspects of consumer credit. Mr. Fraser said there would be a definition of the rate of interest plus other charges below which a transaction would be exempt from consumer credit.

Although he was unable to say what that rate might be he said he was thinking of fixing it "somewhere around minimum lending rate" because to go below it would be laid to impose legislation where "no extra protection was needed".

The Simonet scheme was intended for a trial period of four months but most European steelmakers consider tougher action is needed with regard to imports if serious problems for many leading undertakings are to be avoided.

The request from Europe was submitted by Herr Dieter Spethmann, chairman of August Thyssen-Hütte, West Germany's largest steel producer. He sent it to Viscount Etienne d'Avignon, the industry commissioner.

According to Brussels officials the commissioner indicated that the Community would be reluctant to impose restrictions on steel imports.

In this context Mr. Fraser said there were a "few to be looked at". However, he emphasized that the philosophy of the Act was to help people to avoid getting into difficulties in the first place, rather than helping them out of them.

Kaiser cedes control of Jamaican aluminium holdings

By Clifford Webb

Meriden motor cycles

cooperative has been forced to stop work and lay off all 700 production workers. Further delays in announcing a widely-forecast Government rescue package have precipitated a cash crisis.

Meriden stopped supplying motor cycles to its marketing agent, Norton Villiers Triumph, some seven weeks ago. However, it has continued producing machines for stock in the hope that Mr. Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, would make a speedy announcement.

The cooperative

has had to sell its shares to the Government scheme goes through they should be laid off only for three weeks.

Lord Stokes, former chairman of British Leyland, has accepted an invitation from Mr. Lever, the Prime Minister's economic adviser, to help

Mr. Geoffrey Robinson, Labour MP for Coventry North-West, and a key supporter of British Leyland, would make a speedy announcement.

In the meantime, it has

stopped supplying NVT. The result is that it now has more than 2,000 Triumph Bonnevilles in stock worth about £1m. When the Government

today.

It is understood that warnings were given by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Lever said: "The Government has been told that the

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agreement could be completed

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More lay-offs as production hit by disputes at Leyland factories

By R. W. Shakespeare
More than 9,000 British Leyland workers were idle yesterday and output was disrupted less than 24 hours after senior shop stewards gave a warning that car workers were "faring to strike" over pay anomalies resulting from the Government's wages strategy.

At Coventry all Triumph car output was at a standstill with 3,200 workers laid off because of a continuing strike by 300 paint shop men protesting over the company's use of industrial engineers on work study exercises in their department.

There have been a series of disputes over this issue in different Leyland car plants in spite of the fact that the company has negotiated agreements with the car unions covering the use of industrial engineers.

This fresh trouble at Triumph means that for almost three weeks no completed vehicles

have left the plant. Earlier, cars had to be stockpiled because of a strike by delivery drivers employed by a contracting firm in the Midlands. Now the drivers are refusing to cross the paint shop men's picket lines.

Another consequence of the Coventry standstill is that 400 more workers have been sent home from the Dolomite car body pressing department at Leyland's Triumph factory at Speke, Liverpool, and more layoffs are likely.

Leyland's other big trouble spot is its main Midlands car body-making complex at Castle Bromwich. Two separate disputes there, resulting in strikes by 350 press operators and 400 inspectors resulted in more than 3,000 layoffs yesterday.

Shortages of car bodies immediately started to take their toll in other Leyland car assembly centres. At Longbridge, Birmingham, 2,100

workers were laid off yesterday from the Mini assembly lines and there were warnings of progressive layoffs involving thousands more workers at Longbridge, the Rover plant at Solihull and at Jaguar, Coventry.

However, last night the striking inspectors, who had been protesting over the transfer of one man to their department, decided to call off their stoppage, thus easing the situation. A Leyland management spokesman said that some workers from other areas of the Castle Bromwich plant could be recalled.

At Cowley, Oxford, 650 men were still laid off yesterday because of disputes in Leyland's central spares depot. Yet another 1,500 who had been laid off from the Cowley assembly plant were recalled to resume Marina production which had been halted for two days by yet another strike.

'More flexible' pricing policy by BSC

By Our Industrial Correspondent

More flexible and competitive pricing policies are being implemented by the British Steel Corporation to increase its share of the United Kingdom market. Mr Michael Robson, strip mill products commercial director for the corporation, however, confirmed officially that, because of poor market conditions, the state steel undertaking would not seek to increase prices until the second half of this year.

However, he told a conference on steel in London yesterday, that it planned to increase its strip mill "extras" at the earliest opportunity. It was acknowledged that quite a substantial rise in basic prices of strip mill products would be required as soon as possible to cover the huge jump in costs which had taken place.

Mr Robson told the conference, organized by the Institute of Purchasing and Supply, that the BSC also hoped to increase its share of the United Kingdom market, which had been undermined by imports because of supply difficulties over the past three years, by regaining cus-

tomer confidence. This, hopefully, would be achieved by building up adequate stockpiles to ensure supplies even when production fell short.

United Kingdom demand for cold-reduced sheet and coil, he said, was forecast to rise to 700,000 tonnes for the three months to the end of March, from the present level of 600,000 tonnes a quarter and less than 400,000 tonnes in

In a joint paper presented to the conference by Mr Bernard Asher and Mr Richard Spiegelberg, of the National Economic Development Office, who have been closely associated with the work of the sector working party on steel, it was suggested that the steel industry would emerge from a deficit on its trade balance this year. By 1980 it would be achieving a considerable surplus.

Steel imports into Britain had nearly trebled in six years, and now accounted for nearly 20 per cent of the overall market. The NEDO officials stressed that the improvements which were now in prospect would require a major effort across a wide front.

There will be worldwide tendering for the construction work and equipment, and Mr Pritchard hoped that British companies would bid for them.

It will carry a projected interest rate spread of 1 per cent over eurodollar rates for four years and 1 per cent for the last three years.

Bankers are unsure whether the borrowing will be in the name of the Kingdom of Sweden, or in the name of the Swedish Central Bank.

The loan will be managed by a group of Swedish and United States banks, but with other international banks participating in a syndication.—Reuter.

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Call for firm EEC stand on textile pact as Gatt talks face delay

By Peter Hill

Talks on the future of the Multi Fibre Arrangement, scheduled to open in Geneva later this month under the aegis of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, are expected to be delayed until April 1.

Japan, the United States and most of the developing countries have shown a desire to see the present MFA—which ends at the end of this year—to be extended for a further period without modification.

Mr Bridge told a press conference: "The situation in the European textile industry is bad but in the United Kingdom it is terrible. We must have some controls or soon we will have virtually no textile industry in Lancashire at all."

"Our negotiators have to stand firm. They must argue from strength and not go to the discussions as supplicants with a begging bowl."

In a pamphlet issued to reinforce its claims, the EEC says that nearly 300,000 jobs have been lost in European textile manufacturing, a third of them in the United Kingdom—since the MFA was signed four years ago. A further 1,600,000 jobs are at risk.

Mr Bridge sounded a warning that further mill closures in Lancashire could be in prospect. Over 12,000 workers in cotton and allied textiles are already covered by temporary employment subsidy payments.

There is also concern about the threat of further imports of cotton yarn from South Korea as a result of new arrangements negotiated by the British Government.

The Gatt talks on the MFA are now not expected to begin until the second half of March, according to reports from Geneva yesterday. The reason for the delay is that the European Community cannot obtain a mandate to establish its negotiating position before a meeting of the Council of Ministers scheduled for March 8.

However, an informal discussion on the future of the MFA among representatives of the

British Government.

Mr Pritchard said the contract would involve investment of about £22m on offices, maintenance facilities and workers' accommodation, and a further £15m on equipment, including vehicles.

Under the contract, the partnership will collect and dispose of all domestic and commercial refuse from the population of 600,000, and will also be responsible for street cleaning. Mr Pritchard said it was the first time a city had put its entire cleansing operation out to contract. Previously Riyadh had run its own cleansing department.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Serck prepares to fight

Engineering has put its muscles for the year and the share responded with a 26 per cent to 104p since the start of the year, notably forecast that profits for this year by around £10 million. It is offering nine shares for every ten another West Midland engineer. This is Serck's share at just 10p against a market of last night.

Serck's shares stood at 104p on January 1, AE is predicting that a 100 per cent gain in around 12 months is possible. But Serck's, however, in its annual report, it may be. But then Serck had been built up on profits suddenly, off a long plateau in response to a segment, will have to be it is capable of keeping pace. Obviously this could develop.

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houses, there is little criticism. Indeed, the book shows that pricing practices have got better and fees, in real terms, have fallen.

From *Private to Public by G. D. Vaughan, P. H. Grinier and S. J. Birley, Woodhead-Faulkner*, price £8.50.

Lonrho

Cash flow benefits

There is no room in Lonrho's style to start building bridges at this stage of the game so the credibility gap between the company and the City remains as wide as ever. Nowhere in the latest annual report, then, is there any attempt to spell out its strategy even after a year of moving in several directions at once in the United Kingdom.

Yet despite these shortcomings Lonrho still manages to clock up an impressive earnings advance year by year and though the first quarter figures will not be available until the end of the month, with the financial side getting into its stride, recovery in mining and steel and motors going well that trend will not be interrupted.

Kraftwerk Union is expected to make profits for the rest of this decade but its consolidation will depress margins.

Golden Hope

The rival arguments

For Golden Hope shareholders awash with confusing documentation from rival suitors Harrisons and Crosfield and Gents Highlands, the prospect of finding dry land by simply selling in the market may seem to hold considerable appeal. Judging by yesterday's share price performance—a 5p fall to 82p—some holders have been doing just that.

At that price the shares are 13p short of Gents' cash offer and a fair way above the theoretical value of Harrisons' offer on the basis of calculations suggested by the Gents camp.

However, Golden Hope's net asset value is higher still at 105p and does give some support to the view that even better offers could be in prospect.

Under the revised Harrison plan, Golden Hope shareholders are being offered a stake in Harrison Malaysian Estates the group created to control GH itself and "sister" Patailing and London Asiatic. The Gents argument runs that the value of the Harrison bid for GH can be found through the current share price of Patailing and London Asiatic.

Going through Patailing, after stripping out the value of a cash dividend, each HME share is thus worth 45p and through London Asiatic fractionally less. On this basis the 155p for 100 shares offer for GH is worth only just over 71p.

But this argument contains two important weaknesses. First, under the Harrison plan GH shareholders' control will not be lost, only diluted. So it cannot be viewed simply as a rational bid.

Second, on Harrison's merger terms the net asset value for each old GH share rises to 121p making the offer from Gents—the only straightforward bidder—look less than adequate.

The Harrison takeover/merger offer closes on Monday and wait until then before taking action. If Harrison wins the day early trade in HME may prove that the real value of the two proposals does not differ that significantly.

If it fails, a stalemate is a possibility, though in view of the determination already shown by both sides, shareholders could well achieve further success by holding on and letting the bards run a little longer.

Siemens

Pressure on margins

Last week's news of sharply higher profits from Siemens in the year to end-September heralded a recovery in the company's share price on German stock exchanges. Although the shares dropped DM 1 in Frankfurt yesterday to close at DM 239.50, the price was still comfortably ahead of that just before the profit announcement last Thursday.

Yet the Siemens board has

since made clear that the increase in group profit to DM 456m in 1975-6 from 453m the previous year was predominantly largely the result of a slow down in business activity at around 63 per cent against 68 per cent the previous year, average capacity utilization in the group reached its lowest level since the Second World War.

But a reduction in fixed asset

Business Diary: Day takes a break • Western approaches

the new president potentially good market for British Toy Manufacture, leaves for world toy fair at today with rather ITMA interests on

he describes as a segment he is end-
of the Kiddi-
Manufacturing com-
Kiddicraft 3/4/5 follows the take-
group last October
investment up whose chair-
Hargreaves is now
Spear and Jackson,
ol and saw manu-
which already has
in its stable, is
the management
Kiddicraft. Day,
involved in the
direction of Kiddi-
1957, decided it
move on. He said: we their ideas on
should go so we
on a friendly

which originally up-to-three sec-
market and then
the four and
pioneered among
a cradle play sets
usually a younger's
from a rattle.

he has no intentions
a new outlet
to try to duplicate
craft. "For the
years I can look
the industry as a
high up the possi-
said.

£4 and has made
of export mar-
in the Far
nities Japan as a
present. Finch Street branch

under the same roof as its European, Middle East and African headquarters. Secondly, it will leave room to meet foreseeable expansion requirements over the next few years.

The present 140 staff will be occupying only five of the six floors in the new £2,000 sq ft building, leaving the sixth free for use later.

Thirdly, despite the drop in prime City rents to about £12 per square foot, the Strand, a mile away, is significantly cheaper.

For Security Pacific the move will be the second in only two years. It moved into the Leadenhall Street offices in March, 1975, when the lease on its previous premises ran out.

People who are tickled by the American penchant for playing with words, might like to know that a company in Oakland, California, which traces lost dogs is known as "Sherlock Bones". And what about a Washington DC delicatessen which advertises that "Our Wurst in the Best".

There might at first sight seem nothing unusual about Birds Eye's launching of an Economy Fish Finger as a "lower-priced alternative to the firm's cod fish fingers". Cod prices have been pushed up by the drop in sterling and the aftermath of the dispute with Iceland, so that

10 pure fish fingers each weighing an ounce carry a recommended retail price of 47p, compared with 40p late last summer.

But what the company did not mention in its celebrations is that it replaces a similar product described as an "Economy Fish Stick" available on supermarket freezer shelves since 1974.

Birds Eye admits ruefully that in Britain the name "Fish Stick" just did not work. Although fish fingers are called "sticks" in their North American birthplace "finger" was used when the product was first launched in Britain more

Patricia Tisdall who returned recently from the capital, Kingston, discusses the island's economic prospects

Bauxite model of Jamaica's future

The partnership deal, signed this week, which gives a 51 per cent stake in the American-owned Kaiser Aluminum company to the Jamaican Government is intended to act as a model for the government's trading arrangements with other foreign-owned companies. But Jamaica's bargaining power in aluminium and bauxite is much greater than in sugar and tourism, the country's other main revenue earners.

Next to Australia Jamaica is the world's biggest single supplier of bauxite (from which aluminium is made) and in the first nine months of 1976 it provided half of the United States' total requirements.

The Jamaican plants have great strategic importance for the companies concerned. They are consequently more inclined to meet the present government's demands than industrialists who can more easily take their business elsewhere.

The companies to be acquired are three foreign-owned commercial smelter factories and Radio Jamaica, owned by the Rediffusion group. Reliable sources in Jamaica say one of the banks to be taken over is Barclays. The "mini-budget" statement has caused many foreign firms seriously to reconsider their future in Jamaica.

Lack of confidence among small businesses as well as among individuals in Jamaica's present political and economic climate has caused a flood of private funds to leave the country during the last two years. Mr Manley estimates that £300m worth of foreign exchange has been illegally smuggled out since 1974.

Just after December's election, a devaluation scare caused the demand for Jamaican dollars from the Bank of Jamaica to rise from about £1m a day to £4.5m a day.

The country is now suffering from a massive balance of payments deficit sparked off by soaring oil prices. Fuel accounts for more than a fifth of the total import bill as against about a tenth in 1973. In 1975 total imports amounted to £51.02m against export earnings of only £6.95m.

Besides coping with the general economic problem the Government is also trying to implement a large-scale social and business reform programme. Some Cabinet ministers privately admit that it has taken on more than it can handle.

In an exclusive interview with *The Times* last week, Mr Vivian Blake, Jamaica's recently appointed Minister of Industry and Commerce, said that the government "cannot afford the luxury of mistakes".

Two vital requirements

It is well aware that it is entering a transition stage with no resources. The success of the country's two key requirements is an injection of finance and improved management skills. Mr Blake agrees that much of the management in the public sector leaves

much to be desired.

Jamaica has to rely heavily on its bauxite industry for a solution to its difficulties. Last year its foreign exchange earnings from bauxite amounted to £22.5m (or nearly a third of the total) and apart from earnings the most foreign exchange the industry also represents the largest single item of capital investment.

After more than two years of tough bargaining Mr Manley's government now appears to have reached an acceptable balance of payments deficit sparked off by soaring oil prices. Fuel

accounts for more than a fifth of the total import bill as against about a tenth in 1973. In 1975 total imports amounted to £51.02m against export earnings of only £6.95m.

Kenneth Owen, Technology Correspondent

From outer space to the ocean's depths

To add "Offshore" to a company name in order to assert its presence in the offshore business has become an industrial cliché over the past few years.

For some companies the suffix denotes simply a new market for existing products and services and for others it means new products and services arising from existing technology.

Among the technologies now being applied to offshore operations are those of aerospace and electronics and among the practitioners are Ferranti Offshore Systems, Edinburgh.

In particular, Ferranti is applying the technology of inertial navigation as used in space vehicles to aircraft and space launchers and aircraft to the needs (navigational and otherwise) of offshore exploration and production.

At the heart of an inertial navigation system is the "inertial platform", an assembly of gyroscopes and accelerometers which sense the motion of the craft in which they are installed.

Three accelerometers, mounted at right angles to each other, measure the components of acceleration in those three directions. By relating these measurements to time, it is possible to determine velocities and directions.

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Together, these three industries accounted for more than £550m of Jamaica's total 1975 export earnings of £6.95m. Unfortunately, all three have suffered in the last year.

The prospect of increased earnings from bauxite was thwarted by the general industrial slump in the United States and Europe, which depressed demand for aluminium. Earnings from sugar were hit by, among other things, devaluation of sterling and export earnings dropped from £140m in 1975 to only £56.2m last year.

Tourists, particularly North Americans, who make up more than 70 per cent, stayed away and earnings there dropped from £512m in 1975 to less than £510m in 1976.

The government's immediate aim must be to do what can be to improve earnings from these fields. It is also to diversify into other both to improve foreign exchange earnings and to cut imports, particularly of food where it believes greater self-sufficiency can be achieved.

Also, new overseas markets in, for instance, nearby Cuba and other Comecon territories are being sought to lessen Jamaica's trade dependence on the largest single item of capital investment.

After more than two years of tough bargaining Mr Manley's government now appears to have reached an acceptable balance of payments deficit sparked off by soaring oil prices. Fuel

accounts for more than a fifth of the total import bill as against about a tenth in 1973. In 1975 total imports amounted to £51.02m against export earnings of only £6.95m.

Studies are also taking place into the possibility of combining alumina from Jamaica and Guyana with energy from oil-rich Trinidad. Arrangements have already been concluded for Jamaica to supply bauxite and alumina to Venezuela.

In the middle of this welter of public sector activity and given their suspicions about Mr Manley's democratic socialism any new private investors could be forgiven for thinking that they would receive no welcome at all in Jamaica at present. In this, according to Mr Blake, they would be mistaken.

Scope for help from outside

He made it clear, however, that help from foreign-owned companies would be actively sought only in selected areas, such as agro-technology. It includes incentives, cheap labour, and arrangements whereby nearly all profits from Jamaican-based operations were repatriated were a thing of the past, he said firmly.

Private companies which have already established Jamaican operations appear to have little to fear once the latest government acquisitions have been put in place to provide the necessary resources. A good example is the Javemex bauxite-alumina project jointly set up by the Jamaican government with Mexico. The proposal is that the bauxite mined in Jamaica will be smelted in Mexico.

Jamaica recognizes that for this it needs external finance and skills. Already some inter-governmental semi-governmental agreements have been put in place to provide the necessary resources.

In these and other ways, Ferranti is applying the precision of electronics, aerospace and computer technology to the offshore environment. At present, in this context, its inertial units are ahead of the rest of the world.

For the future, an extension of the company's work in process management and control systems into the oil and gas industry is likely. Here the challenge will be to ensure a very high level of reliability; the target is about five years between failures for the overall systems.

TELEFUSION

Mr. John Wilkinson reports
first half profits of £1.17m
which exceed those for the
whole of the previous year.



INTERIM REPORT 1977

	26 weeks Oct. 1976	26 weeks Oct. 1975	52 weeks April 1976 Audited
Turnover (excluding V.A.T.)	£'000 29,604	£'000 19,934	£'000 44,037
Trading profit	5,558	4,276	9,332
Add profit on exchange			



Coutts & Co.

Coutts & Co. announce that, for balances in their books on and after the 4th February, 1977, and until further notice their Base Rate for lending is 12½% per annum. The Deposit Rate on all monies subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal is 9% per annum.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Pratt down but worst avoided

As it expected, F. Pratt Engineering Corporation did not do as well in the year to October 31 as in the year before. Turnover slipped from £14.95m to £14.72m, and pre-tax profits fell from a record £1.34m to £1m.

However, the board reports that profits are rather better than expected at half time, especially as there has not been a general upturn in activity. Shareholders get a total gross dividend of 6.63p, against 6.02p.

The board warns shareholders, however, that a return to a "more acceptable level of activity" in all divisions is not expected until later in 1977.

Assoc Fish in £4m turnaround to £1.9m

Associated Fisheries has managed a £4m turnaround. From 1975's £2m loss, to pre-tax profits of £1.9m, was the story for the year to September 30 last. Turnover increased by 12 per cent over the two years, to £86.7m.

The board is recommending 1976 dividends of 1.9p gross. In view of the generally improved trading outlook AF says that "It is the intention of the board to restore gross annual dividends to the 1973-74 peak level of 5.4p a share on the earliest practical occasion." But the shares, long anticipating a profits recovery, fell 2p to 47p on the results. Mr P. Tapscott, chairman, reports that the fishing and on-shore businesses contributed equally to the recovery. Now that Britain's 200-mile fishing limit is in force, and assuming negotiations for EEC and bilateral fishing agreements are successful, he sees AF improving on 1976's results this year.

Carr's against WCF deal

After a meeting between the board of Carr's Milling Industries and West Cumberland Farmers, the directors of Carr's are "firmly of the view" that an acquisition of Carr's by WCF would not be in the best interests of customers, employees or shareholders. If such a bid were made, the board would resist.

A week ago, West Cumberland Farmers said that it had made an approach to Carr's which "might or might not" lead to an offer of 45p a share. It would have valued Carr's at £2m. The statement was prompted by rises in the shares.

Carr advises shareholders to do nothing. If an offer is made, the board will get in touch with shareholders.

Peak figures and scrip from Hill & Smith

Since it went public early in 1969 Hill & Swift has never once looked back. Yet again it reports record profits, and a scrip issue. In the year to Sept. 30, turnover expanded from £8.94m to £10.9m, and pre-tax profits rose from £763,000 to £832,000. The latest scrip issue is of one for 10.

The gross payment rises from 3.07p (adjusted) to 3.32p.

The board reports that the current year has started with yet higher sales. Public spending has been curtailed but Hill sees no reason to expect any interruption in "our enviable record". Hill is a steel stockholder, engineer, forger, hirer of plant and maker of road safety barriers.

Record breaker Benn is keeping it up

Not content with turning in best-ever figures for 1975-76, Benn Brothers now seems to be going one better.

Turnover rose 13.5 per cent to £3.4m and more important, in the half-year to December 31, and, more important, pre-tax profits climbed 70.3 per cent to £404,700. In the year to June 30 last, profits more than doubled to a record £555,000.

Mr Richard Woolley, chairman, tells shareholders that the impetus behind the previous year's drive continued into the first six months of this year. The gross interim goes up from 0.76p to 1.07p, but only to spread payments more evenly.

Benn Brothers publish trade journals and directories. Two new journals are being launched in the second half-year L.P. Gas Review and Engineering Distributors Journal.

Sprinter Whatlings tidies its capital

An 80 per cent rise to £37,000 in pre-tax profits in the second half year to September 30 took Whatlings, the civil engineering and building contracting group up 9 per cent to a record £246,000 in the full year. Turnover jumped from £16.3m to £20.6m. Earnings a share were 1.87p against 0.95p and the dividend rises from 0.67p gross to 0.87p.

The board points out that the results and dividends are in line with the forecast with the recent successful rights issue. The issue and bigger profits have already improved liquidity. Borrowings have gone.

After a proposed scrip issue and capital reorganization, every four 50p shares in issue would become one 25p share.

Prop Security losses

In the half-year to September 30, 1976, the gross rents of Property Security Investment Trust grew from £1.3m to £1.45m.

Net property and investment income (after administration expenses) went up from £1.11m to £1.21m. After lower interest and minorities, the loss (before dealing and extraordinary items) fell from £303,000 to £195,000.

Some investment properties were sold at a profit in the half-year and this will result in an overall surplus on revenue account in the full year. The gross interim dividend is 0.7p again.

Dartmouth-H. Miller

The board of Dartmouth Investments says that acceptances of its offer for H. Miller investments have been received in respect of 92.58 per cent of the equity.

Dartmouth held no shares in Miller before the offer and did not acquire or agree to acquire any during the course of it. The offer has accordingly become unconditional.

Hill Samuel Base Rate

Hill Samuel & Co Limited announce that with effect from Friday, February 4th, 1977, their Base Rate for lending will be decreased from 13 per cent to 12½ per cent per annum.

Interest payable under the Bank's Demand Deposit Scheme on sums of £500 up to £100,000 will be at the rate of 10½ per cent per annum. Interest rates for larger amounts will be quoted on application.

Hill Samuel & Co. Limited
100 Wood Street
London EC2P 2AJ
Telephone: 01-628 5011



National
Westminst
Bank

Rate changes

National Westminster Bank

announces that for balances in its books as from and including

Friday, 4th February, 1977

its Base Rate for lending is reduced from 13% to 12½% per annum

and its Deposit Rate on all amounts lodged, subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal, is 9% per annum

Savings Accounts will now attract interest at 9% per annum
All other rates remain unchanged

CASTLEFIELD (KLANG) RUBBER ESTATE

MR. ADDINSELL'S STATEMENT

The 70th Annual General Meeting of Castlefield (Klang) Rubber Estate Limited was held on February 3 in London. Mr. J. ADDINSELL, the Chairman, presiding.

The following is an extract from his circulated statement:

The year ended 30th June 1976 proved to be the anticipated increase in both rubber and oil palm fruit crops. In the case of rubber the lifting of the ban on stimulants compensated for the effects of the severe drought conditions experienced in Malaysia during the second half of the financial year and at 2.49% roses the 1975/76 crop was 25 per cent greater than that of the previous year. The effect of drought on oil palm fruit crops is less immediate and may not be experienced until next year. During the period reviewed we saw the tonnage of fruit harvested increase by 25 per cent to 7,397 tonnes. In sterling terms the average price realisation for our rubber increased to 29.22s from 28.75p per kilo and this more than compensated for an increase in cost of production of some 8 per cent to 17.25p per kilo. Prices for palm products were lower on

average than those of the year, including our tonnage of 5,123 tonnes.

The profit before tax investment income was £570,622. Taxation, including for advance corporation tax to the year's distribution, requires the recommended final dividend per share to make distribution of 2.27 p share for the year.

The Company's a policy remains unchanged to lower on oil palm estate well justified and by 18s oil mill, for which we are now in hand, the commission. Prospects current financial year are still in line with our commodities, but a satisfactory as

The report was adopted by the Agents and Secretaries of Castlefield.

The Royal Bank of Scotland INTEREST RATES

The Royal Bank of Scotland Limited announces that with effect from 4th February, 1977, its Base Rate for lending is being reduced from 13% per annum to 12½% per annum.

The maximum rate of interest allowed on Deposits lodged for a minimum period of seven days or subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal at the London Offices of the Bank will be reduced to 9% per annum.

The Royal Bank of Scotland Limited, Head Office, P.O. Box 31, 42 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH2 2YE.

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The Royal Bank of Scotland Limited, Head Office, P.O. Box 31



Bank markets

Cart about turn on profit-taking institutions hold firm

Bank of England's decision to the old-style for the time being in MLR by a nominal price over the equity and put a stop to its advance.

Well below their best the close, gilt held well, but the FT fell at noon yesterday and the trading stood 0.1 lower.

Attributed the fall mainly to short-term taking their profits, they said, only on the side-lines to clarify their thinking Bank's new policy rates.

From disappointment turning-point cut—most leading one-half markers—market based on the length of 170p.

Countries rose 11p to the historic price ratio is 6 and the yield per cent. Interim are a useful 35 per to £916,000, and last

It looks as if profits are ending this March ahead from £1.4m to £1.7m. If so, the drop to less than 5, yield on a maximum will be 10.7 per cent, well over three times.

CASTLEFIELD

Rubber new measures will stay and its likely success is about a gradual interest rates.

By their high yields, gilts, £1 better in 10, ended with gains in one-quarter and 10.

After failing to

levels after the

shorts and were left

the blue chips

hold on to most of

ly gains, notably

10p to 440p. But most

rises reversed with

10p to 265p,

10p to 180p and 10.

A background of

eductions, the clear-

were calm with

10p, National West-

10p and Midland

10p replaced and

increased at 260p.

Annual meeting stock-

kroyd & Smithers



STENBURG PLATINUM HOLDINGS LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

Company regrets that in the Review by the Chairman in the newspaper on Thursday, 3rd February, under the heading "Outlook" the possible dividend payments for the financial year were compared to those of 1975. It would should have read "Consequently, the total payments for the present financial year could be the same as or less than those of 1975".

3rd February, 1977

The Winterbottom Trust Ltd.

	1976	1975
total Net Assets at Market Value	£13,280,000	£12,257,106
ordinary Shares :		
Asset Value	216.0p	202.3p
Earnings	3.75p	3.75p
Dividend	3.75p	3.50p
geographical Distribution of Investments	%	%
United Kingdom	28.3	32.0
United States	38.8	36.5
Japan	7.9	6.5
Europe	1.5	2.0
Australia	3.6	3.9
Other Countries	4.7	4.4
Total Equities	84.8	85.3
Less Interest Stocks	9.5	5.4
Reserves and Current Assets	5.7	9.3

Summary of Statement by the Chairman, S. A. Field

An increase in the total dividend from 3.50p to 3.75p is recommended. Dividends per share are expected to show a satisfactory increase in the current year.

An increase of 7% in the asset value from 202.3p to 216.0p was attributable to overseas investments. In the same period the F.T. All-Share Index fell by 15% and the F.T. Government Securities Index fell by 1%.

The British economy is passing through a dismal period and meaningful recovery is unlikely to appear until the Sea oil begins to flow in large quantities in two or three years. We continue to believe that America is the only the most attractive country for equity investment.

The Trust's general investment policy has always been to achieve both balanced earnings and capital reversion without undue emphasis either. In recent years it has been

considered appropriate, with a view to maintaining or enhancing real capital value, to have a substantial proportion of the Trust's funds invested abroad, even though this has hindered the growth of revenue. We are nevertheless conscious of the importance to shareholders of revenue and dividend growth and hope that future circumstances will permit this without damaging capital prospects.

During the past year or so, investment trust companies have attracted critical attention because of the large discounts in relation to asset values at which they have been quoted. The prices of investment trust company shares, as of everything in which there is a genuine market, reflect the balance of demand and supply. Recently, supply has exceeded demand.

Discounts have however narrowed somewhat since their peaks in October and may continue to do so as the merits of well-managed investment trust companies are appreciated anew.

Copies of the Annual Report may be obtained from

Baillie, Gifford & Co.

3 Glenfinlas Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6YV.

Telefusion rebounds with 403pc jump



ther losses arising on these contracts, there will be a substantial recovery against the losses already suffered, although at this stage it is not practicable to quantify the amounts involved.

Margins dip at Ladies Pride

Margins fell from 17.9 per cent to 17.2 per cent at Ladies Pride Outerwear. Sales for the year to November 30 rose from £4.25m to £4.67m, and pre-tax profits moved by 5 per cent to £808,000. Earnings a share were 9.85p against 9.63p adjusted.

The board proposes a one-for-five scrip issue, and a dividend of 3.83p gross against 3.49p.

Mr F. A. Robson, chairman, says that sales and production for the spring are at record levels. The growth is coming entirely from exports to 20 countries.

Mr John N. Wilkinson, chairman of Telefusion: lower VAT and broader product range boosted profits.

42 and 43 (Amendments, repeals, expenses)—As necessary.

Commencement orders and orders prescribing forms and other matters will be made and orders will be made at the appropriate times.

There are already in force a number of prescribed forms orders, made under the Companies Act; when the present Act has been implemented, I propose to review all the forms in use, with a view to re-enacting them in one consolidating measure, thus easing the burden on all those who use the forms.

In prescribing the forms for use under this Act, and in the subsequent review, I will of course seek the views of the Companies Registration Office Users' Group.

N Sea shadow over Newarthill lifts

Last August, the directors of Newarthill, when reporting the results for the half-year to April 30, 1976, said that negotiations with the oil companies in relation to the three loss-making North Sea concrete platform contracts were proceeding steadily, but that no agreement had been reached on various financial aspects of the contracts.

Notable progress has now been made in negotiations on all three contracts and, while agreements have not yet been completed, the directors are satisfied that, far from any further

delay, the oil companies

are proceeding with the contracts.

Maurice James is a £1.1m road haulage, waste disposal, packaging and storage group, while York, capitalized at £523,000, is in general engineering, and repairs and maintains railway rolling stock.

Shares in both companies were firmer on the news.

BCA-Nationwide

British Car Auction Group has bought 1.15m shares or 18.3 per cent in Nationwide. It is to be 324,000 shares of BCA.

On the basis of the acquisition one BCA share for every three Nationwide shares is in accordance with the terms of BCA's current bid for Nationwide.

A spokesman for Beaver said the offer was "not welcomed".

Mid East mishap and homes foil Gough C

By Adrienne Gleeson

Profits from housing estates developer Gough Cooper plunged again in the year to September 30; but the directors are holding the dividend. They recommend a final of 5p a share gross, even though this means dipping into reserves.

Pre-tax profits retreated from £1.54m to £388,000. This was thanks largely to a big setback in housebuilding, where a drop in completions from 850 to around 500 and a 100,000-plus write-off on abortive attempts to obtain a Middle East contract.

They pushed the contribution at the trading level down from £1.27m to £406,000. In addition

pre-tax profits were clipped by an exceptional £168,000 land write-off and a debit of £227,000 (against £111,000) on the company's share of the losses of an associate.

The investment in the associate—a property developer in Belgium—has been disposed of since the year-end. But this meant further write-offs of £335,000, taken below the line.

The company expects its house completions to rise to around 1,500 this year, and profits on property investment (up from £223,000 to £421,000 last year due to new lettings) are also likely to rise, though not by as much.

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Rail funds' art investments queried

By Our Industrial Editor
Sir Douglas Henley, Comptroller and Auditor General, has questioned the Department of Transport about its views "on the wisdom and propriety" of the investment of British Railways Board pension funds in antiques and works of art.

The board has replied that this was one aspect of a policy of diversifying investments with a view to improving the security of members. The department was advised that the intention of the trustees was to hold works of art as long-term investments, the merits of which could therefore be fully established only in the indeterminate future.

Professional advisers to the trustees had certified that the current value of such purchases was, in their opinion, no less than the aggregate of the cost prices.

Sir Douglas, in his latest report on the Appropriation Accounts, released yesterday, also reveals that he has questioned the Government on the almost unfettered powers of investment when there was a substantial commitment of parliamentary allocations to meet the funds' huge liabilities. He has inquired whether the Department of Transport had

sought to exercise any oversight of investment policy to reserve the right to nominate additional trustees.

The Government has replied that it had no statutory power to intervene. It saw objections in principle in seeking powers which could not be exercised in respect of voted funds in isolation.

If the department had power to substitute its judgments for those of the trustees and the investment committee, the best interests of the funds, as seen by those directly responsible for them, might not be served.

The Exchequer interest, the Government said, must primarily be safeguarded by the duty of trustees to act in the best interests of their funds in the light of professional advice.

In another statement Sir Douglas said he would not have direct access to the books and records of the National Enterprise Board, which has statutory authority to enter into financial obligations up to a maximum of £1,000. This statement follows a

Treasury minute issued in mid-November that the Government recognized the need for proper parliamentary scrutiny and control of public funds but saw no reason to expect the Public Accounts Committee to experience any difficulties in exercising its responsibilities.

In Volume Two of his report on the Appropriation Accounts, Sir Douglas says that the state-owned NEB will have a large measure of operational and commercial freedom within a framework of arrangements for accountability to ministers and to Parliament.

He points out that the Secretary of State for Industry gives consent for important investment decisions, but adds: "No parliamentary approval is required for such major transactions, however, and in general, Parliament's prior control of the NEB's operations is limited to approval of the Estimates which provide for advances of public dividend capital."

Sir Douglas reviews government powers to provide funds under the Industry Act to the NEB, for which the board will account separately for activities involving ministerial direction.

He comments: "I shall have my normal access to the books and records of the department

in such cases, and I may ask them to seek further information as necessary from the board; I shall not, however, have direct access to the board's books and records."

In a report last year the all-party Public Accounts Committee trusted that future arrangements for scrutinizing NEB operations should not be restricted.

In yesterday's report, Sir Douglas makes a number of points. He says that the NEB's capital structure has not yet been agreed, though it was established in November, 1975, and no determinations of the board's various financial duties had yet been made as required by statute (though these were under discussion).

He reveals that the Government is at present considering where future financial support for British Leyland, the NEB's biggest subsidiary, should be channelled wholly through the NEB as opposed to the present mixture of Industry Act cash and NEB funds.

Although Sir Douglas does not say so, this would have the effect of placing the Public Accounts Committee at arm's length from British Leyland and preserving the barriers to direct access to the NEB.

No access to NEB books

In another statement Sir Douglas said he would not have direct access to the books and records of the National Enterprise Board, which has statutory authority to enter into financial obligations up to a maximum of £1,000. This statement follows a

Businesses 'slow to take up DoI aid'

By Ronald Emmer
Small businesses have been slow to take advantage of the Department of Industry's scheme to finance collaboration between them, Mr Robert Cryer, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Industry, said last night.

Speaking to the Tyne and Wear Small Business Club, he said that the main obstacle was inability to meet criteria, for assistance, rather than lack of ideas.

Mr Cryer urged companies to submit proposals without delay. Under the scheme a total of £100,000 is available to support feasibility studies in the two years ending March next year.

Mr Cryer also hinted that the small business advisory service operating in the West Country would be extended throughout England if the pilot scheme was a success.

Fed lowers US money supply growth range

Washington, Feb 3.—Dr Arthur Burns, the Federal Reserve Board chairman, said the open-market committee had reduced the lower boundary for the M2 and M3 money supplies by half a percentage point. He told the House banking committee the new growth range for M2 is 10 per cent and 8.5 to 11.5 per cent for M3. For the basic M1 money supply Dr Burns said the previous range of 4.5 to 6.5 per cent had been retained.

Over the course of last year M1 rose 5.4 per cent, very close to the 5.6 per cent average of the preceding 10 years. However M2 increased 10.9 per cent compared with a 10-year average of 8.3 per cent and M3 expanded by 12.8 per cent against the previous decade annual increase of 8.8 per cent, he said.

He expected growth rates of the broadest money aggregates to move back to



Dr Burns said some banks and thrift institutions which had taken in more funds than they could easily invest have recently taken steps to slow deposit inflows.

This cooperation, Mr Leutwiler said, was the only way to avoid monetary chaos. He also urged further coordination between the producers and the industrialized states, so far more funds could be placed in the weaker currency countries

Cooperation on exchange rates urged

From Alan McGregor
Geneva, Feb 3
More pragmatic management of floating currencies was advocated today by Mr Fritz Leutwiler, president of the Swiss National Bank, in an address to the European management forum symposium at Davos.

While he saw no possibility of returning to fixed rates in the foreseeable future, he underlined the importance of closer cooperation between central banks to maintain exchange fluctuations within limits permitting desirable economic growth.

This cooperation, Mr Leutwiler said, was the only way to avoid monetary chaos. He also urged further coordination between the producers and the industrialized states, so far more funds could be placed in the weaker currency countries

Orange farmers count weather losses and find them less than feared

How Florida's agriculture escaped disaster

From Frank Vogl,
Miami, Feb 3

Florida has been declared "a disaster area" by the Government because of the damage done to its huge agricultural industry by recent cold weather.

But experts in the state suggest that the damage is not nearly as great as first public reports suggested. Indeed there are indications that the long-term inflationary impact of the cold spell is likely to be minimal.

Federal relief is needed for a large number of temporary employees who have been laid off in the southern farming region, but many of these are likely to find employment before long.

Florida produces half the world's grapefruit and 29 per cent of its oranges on 850,000 acres devoted to citrus farming. The citrus industry here has

an annual sales turnover in excess of \$1,300m and formidable exports to Europe, Canada and Asia.

"We do not have a crisis", Mr Arthur Darling of the Florida State Citrus Commission assured in Lakeland.

A first official estimate of the citrus crop damage will be released on February 9. The commission at first ordered an embargo on fresh fruit shipments to give time for determining the impact of the freeze on the quality of the produce, this embargo is being lifted today.

Industry experts are estimating that the citrus crop losses could total 20 to 40 per cent of output. However, before the freeze this was expected to be a record year.

A 20 per cent loss in the grapefruit crop would merely suggest that the state had about the same amount to market this

year as last year's record volume.

The key mistake in many of the reports so far, apparently, is that they have suggested serious damage to the citrus trees. In fact, by and large, there has been little tree devastation, Mr Darling says.

Processing of oranges into frozen concentrate form is now moving ahead at a frantic pace before a hot spell develops that could ruin fruit that was hit by the cold weather.

Wholesale prices of oranges and concentrated orange juice have jumped sharply by 20 to 30 per cent, largely on the basis of the disaster reports.

Industry experts are now becoming hesitant in view of the clearer and less dramatic picture now emerging about whether the higher prices will hold.

The farmers maintain that before the freeze they were

operating at a loss as a result of the low prices they were getting.

The sizable Florida vegetable crops appear to have been more seriously hit by the freezing weather. "It has practically put us out of the vegetable market", Mr John Stiles, marketing director of Florida's department of agriculture, said in Tallahassee.

But he adds that many farmers can replant swiftly, and there are fears in some quarters that an overabundance of Florida vegetables will be available in the spring.

Vegetable prices may soften as a result, unless the farmers can export more, Mr Stiles suggested.

He declared: "The European market is a good fresh vegetable market for us... we are counting on heavy sales to western Europe in late March and April."

Million German workers granted 6.9pc increase

Düsseldorf, Feb 3.—The federation of engineering employers' associations in North Rhine-Westphalia has approved with the smallest possible majority the 6.9 per cent 1977 wage rise for the state's one million metal industry workers.

This is the first agreement reached in this year's metal industry wage round.

Yesterday the IG Metall union agreed the North Rhine-Westphalia settlement which

was provisionally reached between employers and union negotiators after arbitration on January 28.

The employers' federation said the agreement was a heavy burden for the industry.

Apart from the North Rhine-Westphalia workers, negotiators representing a further 2.3 million workers in other tariff regions have reached provisional agreements on 6.9 per cent wage rises, although these still have to be ratified by unions and employers.

Business appointments

Joint heads named for Marshall group board



Dr R. E. Rowe (left) appointed director-general of the Cement and Concrete Association; Sir George Leitch, who has become a non-executive director of Mackintosh International.

Sir George Leitch has been appointed a non-executive director of Mackintosh International and Mackintosh Consultants.

Sir George Ogden has joined the board of managing trustees of Mackintosh International.

Mr Tito Nardocci becomes the new deputy chairman of Northampton Development Corporation in place of Lord Hirschfeld, who retired in September. Mr Gordon Roberts and Mr David Walsley join the board.

Mr Graham Beare has joined the main board of Northern Foods as a non-executive director.

Mr C. J. E. Rosegood has been appointed managing director of Sodas Industries aviation division.

Mr J. A. Yangs has been elected to the boards of ESSO Europe Inc and ESSO Africa Inc.

Mr Raymond Miquel becomes a non-executive director of Dawson International from April 1.

Mr Edgar Turner has been made deputy chairman of T. Cowie in succession to Mr James Barber, who has retired.

Mr H. B. Marshall has been elected deputy chairman of Hill Samuel Life Assurance. Mr S. W. Pressman, general manager, administration, has joined the board.

Mr Leo Russell, chairman and director-general of the Cement and Concrete Association, is to be succeeded as director-general by Dr R. E. Rowe from April 1. Mr Russell will continue as chairman of the C&CA council.

Mr Norman O'Hara has been made managing director of Kartell Special Panels.

Mr Derek Kimber is to go on the board of Equity Capital for Industry. This brings the number of directors to 14.

Mr David R. Brooks, group managing director of WGI, has become deputy chairman. Mr Alan G. Pendleton, chief executive, mechanical and process engineering division of WGI, has been made a director and deputy group managing director of WGI.

Mr R. M. Denny, a director of Redirustion, has been appointed chairman of the Council of Cable Television Association of Great Britain for the year from January 25. He succeeds Mr D. L. Nichol, a director of British Relay, who remains a member of the council of the Association. Mr Denny is succeeded as deputy chairman by Mr D. W. Neighman, technical director of Thorn Television.

Mr Daniel Beddoe is made a director of C. E. Planning.

Mr Norman O'Hara has been made managing director of Kartell Special Panels.

Base rate..... 12 1/2 p.a.

Deposit rate..... 9% p.a.

Savings account 9% p.a.

WILLIAMS & GLYN'S BANK LTD

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Friday, February 4th 1977

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MIDDLE EAST APPOINTMENTS

JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

An International Construction Group requires the services of a Chartered Accountant to work as Chief Accountant at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The candidates are expected to have 4 to 10 years' post-qualification experience in construction industry.

Tax-free salary from £10,500 to £14,200 p.a. with free furnished accommodation and medical cover, besides free air passage for self and family once a year with 33 days' leave. Applications with detailed professional background may be sent to

MRS CHASE, SARITON LTD., 51, BERKLEY SQUARE, LONDON, W.1, before 15th February 77.

Interviews will be held in London and selected candidates would be expected to report at Jeddah within 3 to 4 weeks.

MAJOR PROJECTS FINANCE ACCOUNTANT

SOUTH IRAN C. \$24,000 TAX FREE

Plus substantial benefits incl. bonus.

Qualified Accountant to work on site. Financial monitoring of major oilfield development projects. All expenses, cash advances, staff, procedures and systems reports, company charges, etc. Current salary should have experience in construction industry. To work alongside experienced accountants who would like to work on short term contracts, holding overseas posts. Full details from Michael Riley, George Head of Recruitment, ACCOUNTANCY TASK FORCE, 21 Capital Ave, London, 01-528 7931.

MIDDLE EAST APPOINTMENTS

the first Friday of every month,

01-278 9161

or Manchester 061-834 1234

QUALIFIED MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS KUWAIT & S. AFRICA

Our clients, a firm of French consultants, require engineers qualified in the following fields for resident and industrial projects in Kuwait and oil and gas power stations.

Boiler Erection (mechanical)

The successful applicant is usually 15 to under 35 years of age and should have several years relevant experience.

Boiler Installation (electrical)

Age and experience as above. All positions are on married contracts, with a minimum of £12,000 per annum. Accommodation and transport supplied. Good prospects for those who have experience.

Applicants should have experience in the following fields: oil industry, chemical, petrochemical, power generation, industrial, chemical, etc. We would also be interested in applications from accountants who would like to work on short term contracts, holding overseas posts.

Full details from Michael Riley, George Head of Recruitment, ACCOUNTANCY TASK FORCE, 21 Capital Ave, London, 01-528 7931.

DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN SECRETARY

Applications are sought for the new post of Diocesan Secretary for the Diocese of Southwark. This responsible and challenging managerial appointment is primarily concerned with the administrative work of one of the most populous Dioceses in the Church of England. Duties will involve general oversight of all Diocesan administration, including finance properties, and Pastoral re-organisation. The successful applicant will also act as Secretary of the Diocesan Synod and the Bishop's Council, and will lead a staff of 17, including specialist Financial and Pastoral Secretaries.

The person appointed could be ordained or lay. Applicants must be practising Communicant members of the Church of England. Experience of administrative work at a senior level is essential. Salary (pensionable): if lay, on Civil Service Principal scale (£6,458 to £8,228); if clerical, equivalent to Archdeacon with housing provision. The Diocesan Secretary will be required to live in or within reasonable distance of the Diocese.

Further particulars and application form, returnable by 28th February, are available from the Secretary of the Selection Board (M. Kinchin Smith, 15 Sheen Gate Gardens, SW14 7PD).

OTHER APPOINTMENTS VACANT ON PAGE 24

£6,000 plus Appointments

Mervyn Hughes Group

59 St. Mary Axe, London, EC3A 8AR
Management Recruitment Consultants

01-283 0037
(24 hours)

Solicitor or Barrister with an international outlook

c. £8,000

A major multi-national engineering corporation requires a Solicitor or Barrister to fill a new appointment based at the London headquarters. The successful candidate will become a member of a small legal team, concerned with protecting the corporation's rights and ensuring that its legal obligations are recognised. The corporation has extensive engineering interests in Europe and elsewhere and the work will involve close liaison with management both in the UK and overseas. Main responsibilities will be to advise and play an active part in:

- * the formation of policies and procedures for the conduct of legal affairs
- * identification of trends in U.K., E.E.C. and international regulations and legislation
- * patents and agreements, including litigation
- * the review of major projects from a legal standpoint.

Applications are invited from candidates aged 27-32, ideally with some experience in practice and commerce and knowledge of both E.E.C. and U.K. legislation. They may have qualified in U.K. or elsewhere and must be able to establish effective working relationships at the highest level within the corporation, the profession, commerce and government. A working knowledge of French or German would be advantageous. Salary is negotiable and will be commensurate with age, experience and ability.

Please write or telephone, in confidence, giving details of experience, age and salary to D. G. Muggridge, quoting reference 602.

London (West End)

EXPORT MANAGER LONDON BASED

We are seeking an Export Manager, with experience in export documentation, letters of Credit and commercial correspondence, to assist the Managing Director. The Company's main activities are in foodstuffs and experience in this industry would be most advantageous as would a working knowledge of Arabic. The post is based in London with periodical short-term visits overseas particularly to the Middle East. Appropriate age 32-45 years, salary circa £8,000 negotiable according to age and experience. Please write in confidence, enclosing curriculum vitae and references to:

CONTINENTAL IMPORT/EXPORT AND SHIPPING COMPANY LIMITED

204 Great Portland Street, London, W.1

(Open to both male and female applicants)

Chief Executive

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the appointment of Chief Executive to succeed Mr. A. B. Baldwin, M. Eng. F.I.C.E., F.I.W.E.S., who retires on 18th April 1977. The responsibilities of the Authority include water conservation and supply; sewerage and sewage disposal; river management; land drainage; water recreation and fisheries for the County of Yorkshire, being an area of 6,500 square miles, with a population of some 4.5 million - the greater part of which is centred on the woolen and steel industries. It has 6,500 employees and current annual budgets of £110 million (revenue) and £50 million (capital). At the Authority's headquarters in Leeds there are three Directorates covering Operations, Finance and Resource Planning, together with three Departments covering Personnel, Legal and Administration, the heads of which form the Corporate Management Team. The region is managed through seven multi-purpose Divisions based on river catchment areas, and one Division covering the region for land drainage purposes. The person appointed will be the Authority's Chief Officer and Principal Adviser on policy. Candidates should have a proven record of achievement in a large scale organisation. The salary for the post will be in keeping with demands and responsibilities. Applications should be forwarded to the Chairman, Yorkshire Water Authority, West Riding House, 67 Albion Street, Leeds LS1 5AA from whom further details can be obtained. The closing date for applications will be 21st February 1977.

Yorkshire Water

MANAGER OF SHIPBUILDING TECHNOLOGY

Applications are invited for the position of Manager of the Shipbuilding Technology Department within the British Ship Research Association. The Department is responsible for undertaking a co-operative programme of research and development on the subject on behalf of the U.K. Shipbuilding Industry. In general all aspects of Shipbuilding Technology are covered, including:

- shipyard equipment and layout,
- shipyard organisation,
- production processes,
- information systems required for estimating, contractor planning, definition of design data for production, purchasing and stock control, and production and cost control.

The work is undertaken in collaboration with U.K. shipbuilding companies for implementation in their own shipyards.

Applicants, male or female, should have appropriate academic qualifications together with experience in leading research and development work, and also extensive knowledge of shipyard practices. Considerable importance is attached to the ability to contribute in an effective way to the formulation and carrying out of R & D programmes and to control a relatively large team. The preferred age range is 35-45.

BSRA is the co-operative research association of the U.K. Shipbuilding Industry. The Association's offices and laboratories are located at Wallsend, and are provided with extensive computing, automatic drafting and computer graphics facilities, in addition to advanced experimental and test equipment for use on ships and in shipyards.

Conditions of employment are in line with those of the most progressive employers, including a first-class pension and life assurance scheme. The appointment will carry an attractive salary. Assistance will be given with removal expenses in appropriate cases.

Applications, marked Confidential, should be addressed to:

THE BRITISH SHIP RESEARCH ASSOCIATION,
Wallsend Research Station, Wallsend,
Tyne and Wear NE22 4UY

PLANNING OFFICER/ ADMINISTRATION

High level involvement with North Sea Oil

London Based Circa £6,000

This new post represents an opportunity for a competent administrator to further his/her career in the North Sea Oil industry. The brief is to provide administrative and planning services to BODL Limited, a subsidiary company of The British National Oil Corporation. This will involve close liaison with other units of the Corporation to ensure that all administrative functions imposed by the Corporation Act are carried out. The post reports to the Director of Planning, BODL Limited, and is based in London.

The need is for a high-calibre administrator, preferably a Chartered Secretary, aged 27-35, who has several years' experience at management level, preferably in a large organization. Sound commercial awareness is essential and a knowledge of the oil industry is preferred.

A comprehensive range of fringe benefits apply including relocation expenses if required.

Please write or telephone for an application form to: G. R. Brown, Personnel Manager, BODL Limited, 38 Hans Crescent, London SW1X 8NS. Tel: 01-588 4565.

Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments

All recruitment advertisements on this page are open to both male and female applicants.

NON-SECRETARIAL

STRIKE OFFICER

We are London's largest strike office. We handle all types of strikes, including industrial, political, and other strikes. We have a full complement of strike leaders and a vital part to play. Above all you must sincerely interested in the strike and its techniques. You will also be required to be an administrator of a strike and be able to live in London around 20,000 people. Address: STRIKE ONE LTD, 11, CANNON ST, LONDON EC4N 6BT. Tel: 01-226 5768.

North East Thoracic Regional Health Authority

HIGHER CLERICAL OFFICERS

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the following posts in the Service Division of the Specialist and Executive Committees, particular working parties, study and training section and in planning and modernisation section.

Salary Scale £2,161-£2,464 plus £352 p.a. Weighting and £312 of Living supplement.

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"The merciful man death good
is to his own soul; but he that is
cruel to his own flesh,"
Proverbs 14: 10.

BIRTHS

BARNFATHER.—On February 2nd
to Joan and Maurice, a daughter
and Mary and Christopher, a son.

BEANSTAFF.—On January 31st
to Rosalie and Gerald John,
of Usworth, Tyne and Wear.

FOX.—On January 31st to
Peter and Giselle, a son.

FRANCES.—On Jan. 26th at Queen
Elizabeth II Hospital, London,
John and Andrea, a son (Toby

HARVEY).—On January 26th to
John and Karen, a son (William).

HALL.—On February 2nd, at
the Kent and Canterbury Hos-
pital, Canterbury, Kent, and
Quentin Hall, a daughter
and Christopher, a son.

JONAS.—On Feb. 1st to
Peter and Valerie, a son (Peter).

MARSH.—On 31st January to
Gillian and Christopher, a son

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